

19 September 2025

Pádraig Rice T.D Dáil Éireann Leinster House Dublin 2

**PQ 46776/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dietitians recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46777/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of occupational therapists recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form

**PQ 46778/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of orthoptists recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46779/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of podiatrists recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46780/25 :** To ask the Minister for Health the number of chiropodists recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46781/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of audiologists recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form

**PQ 46783/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of counsellors recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46784/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of therapists recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46785/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46786/25 :** To ask the Minister for Health the number of radiographers recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

**PQ 46787/25**: To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurses recruited since 2019 that were 1.0 whole-time equivalent (WTE) and below, by year and WTE figure, in tabular form.

## Dear Deputy Rice,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions above in relation to staffing which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) reports on direct employment in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies. Staff are reported on the basis of staff group and grade group. For the purposes of these PQ's I have used a mix of staff groups and grade groups. HSPC details at the end of July 2025, show that were 149,099 WTE (equating to 170,181 personnel) directly employed in the provision of our services.

It may be useful for the Deputy to note that at this juncture the HSE does not currently have a central repository of all recruitment activity as recruitment is undertaken by a variety of stakeholders across the organisation. In an effort to answer the Deputy's questions, we have provided data from our Health Services personnel census that provides reports on the net movement in our employment levels over the period requested by the Deputy.



It is important to note that net WTE movement whilst in the main is impacted by recruitment (new starters) and leavers, other factors such as changes in staff hours (increase or decrease in hours worked eg. part-time, full-time) and unpaid leave.

In an effort to be as helpful as possible to the Deputy, we have amalgamated the 11 PQ's above into one response.

Details of requested grade groups requested by the Deputy, showing both WTE and headcount, are set out in the attached Table 1. The data reports an overall increase or decrease by WTE and headcount over the period requested by the Deputy.

Details of the staff group of Therapy Professions, as requested by the Deputy in PQ 46784/25, are set out in Table 2. This table also reports an overall increase or decrease by WTE and headcount over the relevant period.

Workforce reports are available through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC), which is the official employment count for the public health service. The latest published information is routinely published <u>here</u>.

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Grennan

General Manager

Table 1
Grade Groups WTE Dec 2019 to latest (Jul 2025)

PQ	Grade Group	WTE DEC 2019	WTE DEC 2020	WTE DEC 2021	WTE DEC 2022	WTE DEC 2023	WTE DEC 2024	WTE JUL 2025	HC DEC 2019	HC DEC 2020	HC DEC 2021	HC DEC 2022	HC DEC 2023	HC DEC 2024	HC JUL 2025	WTE Increase since 2019	HC Increase since 2019
PQ 46776/25	Dietitians	574	638	696	756	843	889	894	672	748	808	869	960	1,010	1,033	+320	+361
PQ 46777/25	Occupational Therapists	1,597	1,702	1,840	1,945	2,048	2,062	2,055	1,808	1,932	2,085	2,177	2,283	2,313	2,336	+457	+528
PQ 46778/25	Orthoptists	35	38	40	40	38	36	35	48	50	50	50	49	45	45	+0	-3
PQ 46779/25 & PQ 46780/25	Podiatrists & Chiropodists	72	80	95	121	125	127	135	97	102	116	138	143	146	157	+63	+60
PQ 46781/25	Audiology	72	82	92	100	103	98	98	82	92	106	113	115	109	108	+27	+26
PQ 46783/25	Counsellor Therapists	238	244	274	288	313	320	309	266	273	307	323	347	352	348	+71	+82
PQ 46785/25	Psychologists	1,004	1,066	1,095	1,120	1,238	1,278	1,263	1,144	1,207	1,236	1,271	1,392	1,435	1,431	+259	+287
PQ 46786/25	Radiographers	1,229	1,325	1,441	1,493	1,524	1,582	1,583	1,389	1,485	1,613	1,669	1,705	1,768	1,780	+354	+391
PQ 46787/25	Public Health Nurse	1,539	1,557	1,523	1,504	1,492	1,511	1,501	1,847	1,865	1,835	1,817	1,775	1,803	1,802	-38	-45

Table 2
Therapy professions Staff Group WTE Dec 2019 to latest (Jul 2025)

PQ	Staff Group : Therapy Professions	WTE DEC 2019	WTE DEC 2020	WTE DEC 2021	WTE DEC 2022	WTE DEC 2023	WTE DEC 2024	WTE JUL 2025	HC DEC 2019	HC DEC 2020	HC DEC 2021	HC DEC 2022	HC DEC 2023	HC DEC 2024	HC JUL 2025	WTE Increase since 2019	HC Increase since 2019
PQ 46784/25	Dietitians	574	638	696	756	843	889	894	672	748	808	869	960	1,010	1,033	+320	+361
	Occupational Therapists	1,597	1,702	1,840	1,945	2,048	2,062	2,055	1,808	1,932	2,085	2,177	2,283	2,313	2,336	+457	+528
	Orthoptists	35	38	40	40	38	36	35	48	50	50	50	49	45	45	+0	-3
	Physiotherapists	1,851	1,958	2,091	2,227	2,369	2,411	2,401	2,163	2,275	2,431	2,556	2,700	2,759	2,796	+550	+633
	Podiatrists & Chiropodists	72	80	95	121	125	127	135	97	102	116	138	143	146	157	+63	+60
	Speech & Language Therapists	1.103	1.150	1.186	1.231	1.276	1.233	1.268	1.277	1.333	1.379	1.427	1.467	1.437	1.494	+165	+217