

13th April 2022

Deputy Brendan Griffin, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 24048/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of new WTE staff members hired at West Kerry Community Hospital since 1 December 2021; the specific details of these appointments; the number of WTE retirements and sick and other leave in that period; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

West Kerry Community Hospital (WKCH) provides important and valued services to people living in the West Kerry area. Unfortunately, staff recruitment to West Kerry Community Nursing Unit and many other community hospitals in rural locations can be extremely challenging. Extensive efforts are ongoing, both locally and nationally, to recruit staff.

The following table sets out the position in relation to starters and leavers, by staff category, in West Kerry Community Hospital since 1st December 2021:

Staff Category	Leavers	Starters
Registered General Nurses (RGNs)	1 x Resignation 2 x Retirements	1x RGN commencing in May 1 x RGN commencing in July 1 x RGN commenced this week (former resignation returning part time)
Health Care Assistants (HCAs)	2 x Retirements	1 x HCA commenced in Feb 1 x HCA commenced in March
Support – Domestic/Catering	1 x Catering Assistant- Retirement 1 x Catering Assistant – temporary post to cover TOIL & leave accumulated due to staffing shortage	1 x Catering Assistant– commenced in April 1 x Catering Assistant – currently undergoing recruitment checks

Two further Health Care Assistants were also interviewed locally last week and both have been placed on a panel to fill any future temporary vacancies which may arise.

There are still elements of Staff Nurse/RGN flexible hours and leave (equating to approximately two WTEs) which we are actively working on to replace. However, temporary posts can be more difficult to back fill. We will continue our efforts in this regard.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is committed to maintaining and increasing the staff complement at WKCH in order to optimise service provision for the local community.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People