



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais
Feidhmeannacht na
Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seomra 125, Ospidéal
Dr. Steevens
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Health Service Executive
Room 125, Dr Steevens
Hospital
Dublin 8

24th July 2019

Deputy Brendan Howlin TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 30357 19: *To ask the Minister for Health the spend to date and projected full year spend by the HSE on agency staff by position and grade; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Howlin,

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. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see Table 1 below which shows the total HSE Agency costs by Staff category (Statutory and Voluntary) for the period January to May 2019. The data was sourced from the HSE Management Data Report for May 2019, being the most recent available data.

Table 1

Agency Costs by Staff Category for January to May 2019	
HSE Statutory & Voluntary	
Staff Category	YTD May 2019
	€000s
Medical/Dental	41,231
Nurses	48,774
Support Services	57,525
Allied Health Professionals	11,955
Management/Admin/Maintenance/Technical	13,033
Total	172,518
<i>Source: HSE Management Data Reports</i>	

The HSE's current full year approved allocation for 2019 for agency staff expenditure is €319.8m.

The HSE continuously monitors agency staff expenditure and revises estimates in line with service requirements. This expenditure should be considered in the overall context including increasing demand for services; the impact of earlier constraints on recruitment in the public service; ongoing challenges in relation to the recruitment and retention of clinical staff; actions necessary to support compliance with the European Working Time Directive and efforts to reduce expenditure on agency staff.

Agency pay cost is under constant review. Agency staff are used where there is a difficulty in recruiting and employing hospital staff and where there is a short-term critical service need. Agency is also used for flexibility to allow for variation in activity and as required to meet patient demand needs.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 045 882559.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

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