

Deputy Healy Rae
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Date 22/12/2023

PQ Number: 50572/23

PQ Question: Minister our midwives in CUMH are under severe strain at present. The hours worked are 12 hour shifts and on many occasions a person may have to stay on and do another hour or two with no additional pay and also with no break. This is wrong, it should not be happening. It is a very dangerous situation, the job they are doing is so important.

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

Like all hospitals across the health service, CUMH struggles to fill replacement and promotional positions; the recent moratorium on staff recruitment in the nursing and midwifery sector has compounded this. The growing deficit has an impact on services, safety and morale.

However, if staff are requested to work additional hours on a shift, they receive payment for this extra work. Regarding break times, there is a mechanism of escalation within hospital management to assist the clinical areas in break relief. This is managed with the redeployment of staff from other areas where possible and depends on safety and available resources.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen O'Connor

General Manager & Head of Operations
Cork University Maternity Hospital