



**Stiúrtóir Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
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Seán Canney T.D.

14th February 2024

(note – the release of this PQ was delayed due to FORSA action)

PQ 51994/23 To ask the Minister for Health the reason the current HSE recruitment freeze was extended to all HSE staff except consultants, doctors in training and 2023 graduate nurses and midwives (details supplied); his plans to reverse the recruitment freeze; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney

Details supplied: If he is aware that clinical staff are already working in an overstretched health system and the current recruitment freeze will make their work conditions even more difficult and will compromise patient safety and quality of life throughout the country, the recruitment freeze is also creating very difficult situations for clinicians such as speech and language therapists who were offered jobs in the HSE and who relocated to take up these positions only now to have the offers withdrawn; if he believes that such situations will damage the reputation of HSE employment in the longer term

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

The level of detail you currently require is at this time is not yet available. As you will be aware we are currently engaged in our National Service Planning Process, and therefore the detail you seek is currently forming the basis of the deliberative process as a core element. In determining the posts for inclusion in the 2024 recruitment profile it is necessary to review posts approved prior to this date alongside those posts for which funding has been received in 2024, to ensure that there is a comprehensive approach to the service developments profile in 2024. This work is currently underway, and must in the first instance be undertaken in conjunction with our services, whereby a key priority will their engagement and communication on this in the first instance.

As the Service Planning process is concluded we expect that this detail will then be available, and once communicated across our services will then be available.

Until such time as this process has concluded, we are therefore unable to provide this level of detail.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR