



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Ionad Gnó Shoirid
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord.
Co. Átha Cliath, K67D8H0
Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence
Health Service Executive
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road
Swords,
Co. Dublin, K67D8H0

21 February 2023

Deputy Sorca Clarke

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 5221/24: To ask the Minister for Health how many speech and language therapists are currently working in each health district; how many positions are currently vacant; and how current number compare to each of the past five years.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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

The Deputy will be interested to note that, Employment levels at the end of December 2023, show there were 145,985 whole-time equivalents (WTE), equating to 163,792 personnel directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and Section 38 hospitals & agencies and of which 1,276 (1,467 personnel). This figure represents a 163 WTE (+15%) increase over December 2018. Details as requested for each health district (Hospital Group & Community Healthcare Organisation) in tabular form are set out in the attached table.

While we do not record the information on vacancies, for our planning process, we utilise our turnover rate (which is in the range of 7.9% to 12.6% annually for Health & Social Care Professionals in recent years) to plan for the replacement of staff across our services. For replacements alone (excluding new service development posts) this requires the recruitment of in excess of 12,000 individuals per year in an environment with significant resourcing and labour market supply challenges together with a competitive international market for many health professions.

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 [here](#).

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Des Williams', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Des Williams

General Manager

Speech & Language Therapists by Hospital Group & Community Healthcare Organisation: Dec 2018 to Dec 2023

Service / HG & CHO	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Dec 2021	WTE Dec 2022	WTE Dec 2023	WTE change 2019	WTE change 2020	WTE change 2021	WTE change 2022	WTE change 2023	WTE change Dec 2018 to Dec 2023	% WTE change Dec 2018 to Dec 2023	No. Dec 2023
Speech & Language Therapists	1,103	1,150	1,186	1,231	1,276	-11	+47	+36	+45	+45	+163	+15%	1,467
Children's Health Ireland	15	17	18	19	24	+0	+1	+1	+1	+5	+8	+55%	28
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	39	45	47	54	57	-1	+6	+2	+8	+3	+18	+45%	64
Ireland East Hospital Group	48	62	69	66	78	+0	+13	+7	-3	+12	+30	+62%	94
RCSI Hospitals Group	42	44	42	48	46	-0	+2	-3	+7	-3	+4	+10%	48
Saolta University Hospital Care	16	18	23	30	29	-1	+2	+5	+6	-0	+12	+67%	34
South/South West Hospital Group	33	41	47	57	62	+1	+8	+6	+10	+5	+29	+91%	69
University of Limerick Hospital Group	5	10	12	12	13	-1	+5	+2	+0	+1	+7	+115%	14
other Acute Services						-1	+0	+0	+0	+0	-1	-100%	
Acute Services	198	236	258	285	308	-3	+38	+21	+28	+22	+107	+53%	351
CHO 1	69	73	73	75	79	-1	+4	+0	+2	+4	+8	+12%	90
CHO 2	105	105	107	111	117	+1	+1	+2	+4	+7	+14	+13%	133
CHO 3	58	64	68	77	84	+3	+6	+4	+9	+7	+29	+53%	96
CHO 4	134	136	146	144	151	+0	+2	+9	-2	+7	+17	+13%	177
CHO 5	102	95	106	100	108	-0	-7	+11	-7	+8	+6	+6%	126
CHO 6	70	65	59	59	68	-5	-5	-6	+1	+9	-7	-9%	80
CHO 7	126	129	127	126	112	+3	+3	-2	-1	-13	-10	-8%	124
CHO 8	106	110	104	104	110	-3	+3	-5	-1	+6	+1	+0%	131
CHO 9	133	136	139	152	138	-7	+2	+3	+13	-14	-2	-1%	158
Community Services	904	913	928	946	967	-8	+9	+16	+18	+21	+55	+6%	1,115
National & Central Services	1	1			1	+1	+0	-1	+0	+1	+1	-100%	1

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note 1: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section agencies)

Note 2: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) and calculated to 2 decimals in order to take account of part-time working.