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Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 9168/24**

**“To ask the Minister for Health for monthly details of staffing levels and recruitment for each discipline and within each care group across each geographical area of the Cork/Kerry primary care services from January until December 2023, in tabular form.”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

Please see attached table which includes details of recruitment in Primary Care from January to December 2023.

As you will be aware, a recruitment embargo is in place within the HSE since October 2023 which has significantly impacted the ability of Primary Care Services to recruit/replace any disciplines since this time.

With regard to staffing levels, it should be noted that there are variables such as staff who are on annual leave, sick leave, paid maternity leave, etc. who are included in staffing level details, however are unavailable in terms of productivity, hence at various intervals there is reduced operating capacity.

In addition to the above variables, whilst waiting list data gives the overall numeric situation, you will appreciate that this is nuanced with the fact that specialist skills are required for example in areas such as paediatrics, specific diagnosis, delivery of regional services, etc. It also should be noted that all waiting lists have a clinical prioritisation applied which encompasses a case mix of routine and complex cases to ensure that individuals with the highest clinical need are prioritised accordingly.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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