



**Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
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**National Director
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Michael Creed T.D.

25th July 2024

PQ 30664/24: To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify the situation regarding the recruitment freeze on nursing posts in the HSE including that of psychiatric nurses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Creed

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response. The HSE has now finalised its Pay and Numbers Strategy following detailed discussion over the last number of months with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. There is now a new approved maximum Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff figure for the HSE and Section 38 Agencies of 129,753. (This excludes disability services provided by the HSE and its S 38 Organisations in that sector, pre-registration nursing and midwifery students, and 76 special assignment temporary posts). The HSE recruitment embargo therefore ended on Monday 15th July 2024.

Each of the six HSE Health Regions and each national service will be provided with its own specified number of WTEs and they can, within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. This allocation process is underway. This provides greater flexibility for Health Regions and national services to respond to the needs of the population and prioritise posts appropriately.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona McConnellogue
National HR