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12<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Deputy Sean Sherlock,  
 Davis (Flemings) Lane,  
 Mallow,  
 Co. Cork

**PQ Ref 31915/24**

**\*To ask the Minister for Health the vacant posts currently existing in each hospital in the south-south west area due to the HSE recruitment ban; and the timelines to fill those positions\*.**

**- Deputy Sean Sherlock**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE Pay & Numbers Strategy 2024 was recently issued to all Health Regions including the HSE South West. This strategy gives the Regional Executive Officer the authority to replace, recruit and prioritise posts within the HSE South West.

The HSE recruitment embargo ended on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Each of the six HSE Health Regions which includes the HSE South West and each national service has been provided with its own specified number of WTEs and can within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise essential posts. This allocation process is currently underway and will continue until year-end with the focus on filling urgent posts while remaining within our overall WTE ceiling.

The following table outlines the current estimated vacancies for the South/South West Hospital Group:-

<b>Estimated Total Vacancies for SW Acutes</b>	
Bantry General Hospital	65.74
Cork University Hospital	384.34
Cork University Maternity Hospital	211.92
Hospital Group HQ	14
Mallow General Hospital	34.5
Mercy University Hospital	8.21
South Infirmary - Victoria University Hospital	20.4
University Hospital Kerry	142.9
<b>Estimated Total of Vacancies</b>	<b>882.01</b>

The HSE South West are currently working to understand the number of staff we are in a position to recruit. This will need to be within the financial resources allocated and taking account of the reduction in agency staff employed.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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John R. Higgins,  
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
South/South West Hospital Group.

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