



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP  
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CORK  
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16<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan,  
Railway View,  
Macroom,  
Co. Cork

**PQ Ref 19925/24**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to address the severe staff shortages in all hospitals in the South/South West hospital group; and if he will make a statement on the matter\*.**

- Deputy Aindrias Moynihan

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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 South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG) consists of five statutory hospitals and two voluntary hospitals. The statutory hospitals are:

- Bantry General Hospital (BGH)
- Cork University Hospital (CUH)
- Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH)
- Mallow General Hospital (MGH)
- University Hospital Kerry (UHK)

The two voluntary hospitals in the Group are funded by the HSE as Section 38 agencies under the Health Act 2004:

- Mercy University Hospital (MUH)
- South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH)

The HSE CEO has issued a number of employment control measures since 29th May 2023 which apply to the entire HSE and not just Hospitals in the SSWHG.

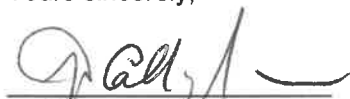
The SSWHG are committed to recruiting and retaining quality staff. Despite increased financial pressures in the healthcare system, recruitment pauses and controls, staffing levels are at an all-time high (see table below).

The SSWHG continues to prioritise the recruitment of both development and replacement posts across the staff categories throughout 2024.

	Dec-22	Dec-23	Mar-24	Apr-24	Change from last Month	Change from Dec23	Change from Dec22
<b>BGH</b>	333.30	326.83	330.83	335.18	4.35	8.35	1.88
<b>CUH</b>	4,156.11	4,570.94	4,584.17	4,636.92	52.75	65.98	480.81
<b>CUMH</b>	625.81	663.80	668.12	674.38	6.26	10.58	48.57
<b>MGH</b>	273.19	329.17	350.98	356.18	5.20	27.01	82.99
<b>MUH</b>	1,434.99	1,531.67	1,483.78	1,479.66	-4.12	-52.01	44.67
<b>SIVUH</b>	843.98	908.15	932.74	938.32	5.58	30.17	94.34
<b>UHK</b>	1,415.35	1,534.54	1,550.15	1,552.00	1.85	17.46	136.65
<b>Group HQ</b>	66.09	95.87	95.57	95.98	0.41	0.11	29.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,148.82</b>	<b>9,960.97</b>	<b>9,996.34</b>	<b>10,068.62</b>	<b>72.28</b>	<b>107.65</b>	<b>919.80</b>

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,



Dr. Gerard O'Callaghan,  
A/Chief Executive Officer,  
South/South West Hospital Group.

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