



9th May 2024

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20700/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurses in each CHO, in tabular form; the number of vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Please see the table below outlining the number of Public Health Nurse in each CHO as of March 2024:

CHO Area	No of Public Health Nurses
CHO 1	179
CHO 2	217
CHO 3	146
CHO 4	268
CHO 5	196
CHO 6	116
CHO 7	188
CHO 8	259
CHO 9	198

There is no accepted definition of what a vacancy actually is. Data in relation to vacancies that are approved for replacement include New Development posts, retirements and resignations. However there can be other reasons posts are not filled (for example where there is long term sick leave, maternity leave, blocks of parental leave etc.), which may not be possible to gain budgetary approval to replace, although there may be a person assigned to such 'vacancies'/posts that are crucial to service delivery. However they are not an approved vacancy. Because of the complexity of it, it is not possible to hold accurate data at a national level or give a definitive figure for vacancies as this information is not routinely collected in the manner sought.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline Nix
Assistant National Director, HR Community Operations