



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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15 November 2024

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 43987/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies of whole-time equivalent senior dental surgeons, per CHO area, for the years 2018 to 2024, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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.

With the agreement of the Pay and Numbers Strategy between the Department of Health and the HSE, staffing levels (WTE) were set to those that were live in the system at the end of 2023. The resulting impact redefined any vacancies that arose prior to that date as no longer being in the system. Concurrently, any additional WTE live in the system at the end of 2023 were defined as part of the existing staffing levels.

As part of the implementation of the Health Regions and the Pay and Numbers strategy, it is the responsibility of the Regional Executive Officer to identify vacancies arising in 2024 and determine whether they can be replaced within their WTE limits.

The HSE does not hold trending data information on vacancies by grade within the oral healthcare services.

The total number of senior dental surgeons employed directly by the HSE in each of the years 2018 -2024 is detailed in the table below and is available by CHO.

| | Service/Grade - HSE Only | WTE Dec 18 | WTE Dec 19 | WTE Dec 20 | WTE Dec 21 | WTE Dec 22 | WTE Dec 23 | WTE Sep 24 |
|-------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CHO 1 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 6.0 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| CHO 1 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 0.9 | | 1.0 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 3.9 | 2.8 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 2 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CHO 2 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 2.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.8 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 3 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 4.6 |
| CHO 3 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 4 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 9.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 8.8 | 6.7 | 6.4 | 6.5 |
| CHO 4 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 4.2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 5 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 5.8 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| CHO 5 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 2.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 6 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 2.8 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| CHO 6 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 7 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 3.2 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| CHO 7 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 8 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 3.6 |
| CHO 8 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 1.7 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 3.6 | 2.7 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CHO 9 | Dental Surgeon, Senior | 4.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.9 | 5.0 |
| CHO 9 | Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.2 |

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Anne O'Neill

Anne O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health