



25th November 2024

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: richard.boydbarrett@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQs 39403/24 and 44217/24, St Michael's Hospital

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions seeking an update regarding staffing in St Michael's Hospital, which has been referred to the HSE Dublin and South East Health Region for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the methodology for tracking spend and WTE complement changed in July 2024. The change allows the HSE to clearly track complement and vacancy rates. Prior to the 2024 Pay and Numbers strategy, individual hospitals had greater discretion in how to allocate pay funding to specific posts. Requests for recruitment in statutory hospitals were reviewed based on whether funding for the post was included in the financial run rate. Voluntary hospitals had discretion to manage their complement within pay limit. Clinical risk factors meant a number of unsanctioned posts were also recruited.

Attempts were made to track vacancy rates. Hospitals returned self-reported data on vacancy rates – for Nursing and Midwifery in all hospitals for all years requested. This data does not account for whether posts were sanctioned or unsanctioned. Data returns are incomplete and figures should be treated as provisional.

Please find attached the summary of hospital reported vacancies, for hospitals under our remit.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Declan Hynes,
Director of People
HSE Dublin and South East



One Kilmainham Square,
Inchicore Road,
Dublin 8,
D08 ET1W



Appendix:

IEHG Self-Reported vacancies for Nursing and Midwifery September 2023:

Total September 2023	565.90
Total September 2022	412.79
Total September 2021	293.85
Total September 2020	135.44

IEHG Self-Reported vacancies for Healthcare Assistants September 2023:

Total September 2023	40.60
Total September 2022	23.00
Total September 2021	19.50
Total September 2020	13.90

