

Private & Confidential

30th September 2024

Deputy
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St, Dublin 2

PQ Number:38502/24

Dear Deputy Healy Rae

PQ Question:

To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to address HSE staffing issues in Kerry and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied:

Due to the HSE Staffing embargo there are currently approx 50 vacant posts for nurses and carers waiting to be filled at University Hospital Kerry, I ask the Minister what is being done to address this problem.

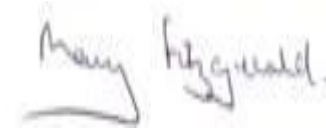
Response provided by University Hospital Kerry:

As with all HSE posts, vacancies associated to Nursing and Health Care Assistant posts at University Hospital Kerry, fluctuate continually, due to factors such as natural attrition. As at the 26th September 2024, UHK has a total of **26** vacant Nursing posts. This equates to 4.7% of UHK's nursing workforce. At the present time also, there are **7.2** HCA vacancies at the hospital, correlating to 6.8 % of the HCA workforce.

By virtue of UHK's very successful Graduate recruitment campaign, the hospital has recently yielded a panel of 33 graduate nursing staff. Commencing this week, these nursing graduates are now beginning to take up their permanent employment with UHK. It is anticipated that the full cohort of graduate nurses recruited, will be on-boarded at UHK, by November 2024, thus entirely filling the current vacancies outlined above. With regard to HCA vacancies, a permanent HCA panel is in place at UHK, with plan to recruit from this panel as and when backfill sanctioning transpires, at REO level. Regarding the Safe Staffing guidelines, UHK can confirm that all of the 20 RGNs and the 25.5 HCA's approved for UHK in 2023 under Safe Staffing, have commenced in post.

I trust this response is to your satisfaction; should you have any further queries however, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Fitzgerald
General Manager
University Hospital Kerry