



11th February 2025

Deputy John Brady, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 1253/25

To ask the Minister for Health to provide details of the number of staff working in weight management services, broken down by location and service, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 1254/25

To ask Minister for Health to provide details of the number of current staff vacancies in weight management services broken down, by location and service, in tabular form

PQ 1255/25

To ask Minister for Health the details of plans that are in place to fill current vacancies in weight management clinics; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Brady,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Obesity on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

In 2022, funding was allocated via the Waiting List Action Plan (WLAP) to commence implementation of the HSE's Model of Care for Obesity¹. Across 2023, this funding was used to commence Phase One Implementation of the Model of Care, through services in St Columcille's Hospital/St Vincent's Hospital, Galway University Hospital and Children's Health Ireland.

Separately, funding was allocated via Sláintecare Health Communities to operationalise two community based teams for children and young people and via the HSE's Enhanced Community Care (ECC) programme to operationalise community-based group programmes for adults.

The table below sets out the current numbers of number of staff working in weight management services and uplift requirements per team, based on the recommended Irish workforce model as outlined in HSE's Model of Care for Obesity.

Region	Service	Count of WTE/staff working in weight management as of Jan. 2025	Uplift (WTE) per team to meet recommended MDT Obesity composition
Dublin Midlands	Changing Together Community Obesity Service for Children and Young People	5.5	4.5
	Children's Health Ireland - Healthy Living at CHI	8.5	2
Dublin South East	Changing Together Community Obesity Service for Children and Young People	4.5	5.5
South West	Mallow General Hospital	2	8

Dublin and South East	St Columcille's Hospital Centre for Obesity Management	7	2.5
	St Vincent's Hospital Bariatric Surgery Service	12.5	0
West and North West	Galway University Hospital Bariatric Surgery Service	17	2
National	Best Health Adult Obesity Management Programme in HSE Chronic Disease Hubs	15	31.5
Total:		72	56

The HSE is committed to continuing with the next phase of the National Obesity Model of Care implementation, with particular emphasis on recruitment of staffing at sites where an uplift of team composition is recommended.

Increasing staff Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) levels to the required level has significant costs and takes time to recruit suitable qualified and available personnel. Cognisant of these factors, NCP Obesity will continue to seek additional investment to implement the roll out of the Obesity Model of Care by deploying a phased approach on an incremental basis, aligned with the investment secured. It is anticipated that further implementation of the model will continue in 2025 and subsequent years, with associated funding requests/requirements.

Investment towards implementation is expected to continue in 2025, as outlined in the HSE's National Service Plan 2025² - NSP 2025 (pages 14 & 19), to deliver key priority actions in 2025, such as Obesity Model of Care expansion of services for children and adults living with obesity.

Additional funding allocated in 2025 will support the progression of key clinical strategies including Obesity & Bariatrics, as outlined in the HSE's NSP 2025, Appendix 3, Table 2: 2026 Full Year Costs related to NSP 2025 (page 88 - extract below).

Reference	2025 New Measures	WTE 2025	Pay Funding 2025	Non-pay Funding 2025	Once Off Funding 2025	Total Funding 2025	Full Year Cost in 2026	2026 Incremental funding requirement
		WTE	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
NSD 2025 – 46	Obesity and Bariatrics Service	34.0	0.9	0.1	-	1.0	2.0	1.0

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Horgan
General Manager

References

1. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/obesity/model-of-care/obesity-model-of-care.pdf>
2. <https://about.hse.ie/publications/hse-national-service-plan-2025/>