



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Saothair
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co.
Chill Dara, W91 KDC2
Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence
Health Service Executive
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co.
Kildare W91 KDC2

23 January 2025

Deputy Seán Crowe

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 46737/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurse posts per CHO; and the number of posts filled and the number of vacancies, in tabular form.
Seán Crowe TD

Dear Deputy Crowe,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to staffing which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

The Deputy will be interested to note that given the size and complexity of the health services, staff are recruited by local services, through national recruitment initiatives and through external agencies by the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals and agencies. In addition, the HSE also has on-going international recruitment campaigns, which take place in a competitive environment against global shortages of health professionals. Recruitment activities are undertaken to fill both vacancies and new service development posts.

However, the HSE does not centrally track all this recruitment activity, undertaken by a variety of stakeholders across the organisation. Instead, through our planning process, we utilise the staff turnover rate (published on a quarterly basis), to plan for the replacement of these staff across our services as well as the filling of our new service development posts. For the 12 months to 30 September the turnover rate (including retirements) was 5.3% for Public Health Nurses.

At the end of December, employment levels show there were 148,268 WTE (equating to 166,104 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and Section 38 hospitals & agencies and of which 1.6% (1,511 WTE/ 1,803 personnel) were Public Health Nurses. This figure excludes other grades in Public Health Nursing (including Director and Assisant Director of Public Health Nursing) together with Staff Nurses based in the primary care services. Details as requested by the Deputy at 31 December 2023 and 2024 by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) are as set out in the following table:

Public Health Nurses to December 2024

Public Health Nurse by Service & CHO	WTE DEC 2023	WTE DEC 2024	WTE Change 2024	No. DEC 2023	No. DEC 2024	HC Change 2024
Total Public Health Nurse	1,492	1,511	+19	1,775	1,803	+28
CHO 1	163	166	+3	186	190	+4
CHO 2	190	192	+3	217	224	+7
CHO 3	125	131	+6	152	157	+5
CHO 4	209	216	+7	267	279	+12
CHO 5	160	166	+5	193	201	+8
CHO 6	98	98	-0	115	113	-2
CHO 7	158	150	-8	188	178	-10
CHO 8	215	215	+0	252	253	+1
CHO 9	171	175	+4	201	205	+4
Community Services	1,489	1,509	+20	1,771	1,800	+29
National Services & Central Functions	3	2	-1	4	3	-1

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note¹: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section agencies)

Note²: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) and calculated to 2 decimals in order to take account of part-time working

Workforce reports are available through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC), which is the official employment count for the public health service. The latest published information is routinely published [here](#).

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,



Des Williams

General Manager