



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais
Feidhmeannacht na
Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seomra 125, Ospidéal
Dr. Steevens
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Health Service Executive
Room 125, Dr Steevens
Hospital
Dublin 8

23rd July 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

***Re PQ 29463 19:** To ask the Minister for Health the spend on agency staff in the health service to date in 2019, by occupation, hospital and community healthcare organisation in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see **Appendix 1** attached (separate email attachment) comprising **Tables 1 to 7** which provide the HSE Agency Staff costs for the period January to May 2019 for HSE Statutory Acute Hospitals by hospital and Statutory Community Services by Community Health Organisation. Table 1 provides overall Statutory Hospital and CHO data, i.e. all Agency Staff categories. Tables 2 to 7 are for each of the Department of Health staff categories i.e. Medical Dental, Nursing, Management/Admin, Paramedical, Support Services and Maintenance Technical staff.

The data was sourced from the HSE Consolidated Financial Intelligence systems and is for HSE Statutory services only.

This expenditure should be considered in the overall context including increasing demand for services; the impact of earlier constraints on recruitment in the public service; ongoing challenges in relation to the recruitment and retention of clinical staff; actions necessary to support compliance with the European Working Time Directive and efforts to reduce expenditure on agency staff.

Agency pay cost is under constant review. Agency staff are used where there is a difficulty in recruiting and employing hospital staff and where there is a short-term critical service need. Agency is also used for flexibility to allow for variation in activity and as required to meet patient demand needs.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 045 882559.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

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