



23 June 2023

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Number: 27483/23

Question: "To ask the Minister for Health the number and details of all approved consultant posts by discipline, speciality, and clinical site grouped and totalled by Hospital Group/CHO respectively providing the numbers filled listed on each of the following basis as permanent, temporary, locum or agency basis; the total number of vacant consultant posts (including those vacant and newly created and currently under recruitment) similarly grouped as above, in tabular form; the length of time the vacant posts have remained vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter – David Cullinane".

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The data in the attached spreadsheets and below is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at **06 June 2023**. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date.

Table 1: CAAC Approved consultant posts by discipline, speciality, and clinical site grouped and totalled by Hospital Group/CHO respectively (Please refer to accompanying spreadsheet PQ 27483).

Table 2: CAAC Approved Public Health consultant posts by discipline, speciality, and clinical site grouped and totalled by Hospital Group/CHO respectively (Please refer to accompanying spreadsheet PQ 27483).

Table 3: Number of CAAC (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) Approved Consultant Posts occupied by Tenure as at 06.06.2023	
Tenure	Total
Permanent	3301
Temporary/Locum	356
Agency	68
Tenure Status Unknown	29
Total	3754

Table 4: Number of vacant and new additional service posts (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) CAAC Approved Consultant Posts at 06.06.2023*

Vacant consultant posts (which had been occupied previously and are now vacant)	157
Newly created Consultant posts and currently under recruitment*	323

** Refers to new additional consultant service posts approved by CAAC which are awaiting or undergoing recruitment. Recruitment for the new post has most likely been initiated. It should be noted that there is often a significant period of time between approval of a consultant post through CAAC to the commencement of the recruitment process and ultimately the recruitment of a Consultant to a post.*

Table 5: Duration of vacant CAAC approved Consultant posts

Less than 2 years vacant	384
Greater than 2 years vacant	96

Table 6: Definition of Status

Approved: The post has been approved through the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) process.
Vacant: A post which had been occupied previously, regardless of tenure, but is now vacant as verified by the clinical site on DIME.
Future start date: Recruitment has concluded and a successful candidate has been appointed with their agreed start date in the future.
Unknown status: The clinical site has not yet assigned a Consultant to the post or marked the post as vacant.
Tenure Status unknown: The clinical site has identified a successful candidate through a standard competitive interview process and assigned a start date but is yet to assign the Consultant tenure details to the post.
Permanent: those consultants that hold a permanent or contract of indefinite duration contract.
Agency/Temp/Locum: includes agency, locum, fixed term contract holders and specified purposes contract holders.

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole

Assistant National Director