



405200108
HSE South,
Lacken,
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny,
Ireland.

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Telephone 353 56 7784100
Fax 353 56 7784388

Deputy Charlie McConalogue TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

13th March 2019

PQ8299/19

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff in the cross border directive unit; the number of these which are HSE staff; the number of these which are agency staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ8300/19

“To ask the Minister for Health if he has received a submission seeking additional resources for the cross border directive unit; the number of staff that have been requested; when the submission was received; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy McConalogue,

Thank you for your PQ’s above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

The below table outlines the current staffing structure within the HSE CBD office and the staffing requirements to address the current workload and future proof the department for the ever increasing workload evidenced since the schemes inception in 2014.

Department	Grade	Existing WTE	Existing Vacant	Existing Agency	Future Proofing WTE	Commentary
CBD	Grade VI				2	CBD was not allocated any staff when established in 2014. Ideally the grade structure needs to be such that it reflects the function of the office with specific regard to sign off on reimbursements and for the establishment of case managers to assist vulnerable patients when accessing the Scheme.
CBD	Grade V				3	
CBD	Grade IV				5	
CBD	Grade III			6	30	
Total Existing		0 WTEs				
Total required for future proofing		40 WTEs (2 x Gr VI; 3 x Gr V; 5 x Gr IV; 30 x Gr III)				

In addition to the above, we have reallocated on a temporary basis four members of staff from the Treatment Abroad Scheme office. This is not an ideal situation as it in turn has an adverse effect on the TAS office.

We are currently working closely with Human Resources section of the HSE Acute Hospital Division with a view to resolving both our staffing and accommodation shortcomings and have been assured that this matter will be resolved without delay. We met with HR representatives last Thursday 7th February and at their request have resubmitted a business case and staffing spreadsheet template yesterday 12th March 2019.

I acknowledge Minister Harris' response to your PQ8300/19 which he states:

"The management of staffing levels for the HSE Cross Border Directive (CBD) office is an operational matter for the HSE. I understand that a business case for increased staffing levels has been made by the CBD office and is being considered in the HSE. A copy of this business case was forwarded by the HSE to my Department in May 2018 for information purposes. As this is an operational matter I have asked the HSE to respond directly to the Deputy on the particulars of the staffing submission in relation to the CBD office"

The Minister correctly outlines that business cases were previously submitted within the HSE in 2016, 2017 and 2018. A copy of the 2018 business case was sent to his office in May 2018 as requested.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or via [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
A/Asst. National Director