

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY J.G. REED OF ST OUEN**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2007

Question

Would the Minister advise the Assembly what the total number of public sector staff vacancies were for the six month periods to 30th June 2005, 31st December 2005, 30th June 2006, 31st December 2006 and 30th May 2007 within his Department?

Of the staff posts transferred to and from the Department during the above periods, how many were actually vacant at the time of transfer?

What funds were saved by Departments from unfilled posts in each period?

How many of the existing vacancies are currently budgeted for and how many vacancies have remained unfilled for a period of 12 months or more?

Answer

Q1. Would the Minister advise the Assembly what the total number of public sector staff vacancies were for the six month periods to 30th June 2005, 31st December 2005, 30th June 2006, 31st December 2006 and 30th May 2007 within his Department?

	FTE	Headcount
Vacancies as at 30/6/05*	30	58
Vacancies as at 31/12/05*	77.42	102
Vacancies as at 30/6/06*	20.71	0
Vacancies as at 31/12/06*	9.3	28
Vacancies as at 31/05/07	195.75**	

*These vacancies, as reported for the Public Sector Manpower Reports, do not include those covered by temporary staff.

**The majority of these vacancies are filled by temp/agency/bank/locum staff.

Q2. Of the staff posts transferred to and from his Department during the above periods, how many were actually vacant at the time of the transfer?

Department	Transfers From HSSD	Transfers To HSSD	Vacancies at time of transfer
Chief Minister's	28	0	0
Treasury and Resources	7	0	1
Home Affairs	0	5	0
Education, Sport and Culture	1	38	12

Q3. What funds were saved by Departments from unfilled posts in each period?

Whilst posts have been reported as unfilled, most of the work has continued to be performed in order to maintain services and this cover has been achieved through a number of ways including temporary staff, acting up arrangements, overtime and short term interim staff. Therefore, without a substantial amount of work with each budget holder, it is not possible to give an accurate figure of the savings made.

Q4. How many of the existing vacancies are currently budgeted for and how many vacancies have remained unfilled for a period of 12 months or more?

All existing vacancies are budgeted for.

The current HR Information System does not track vacancies. Therefore the Department is unable to identify which vacancies have remained unfilled for a period of 12 months or more.