

12 November 2021

Deputy Pa Daly  
Dáil Éireann  
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HR Shared Services, National HR  
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**Re: PQ52122/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise on a matter raised in correspondence re Physiotherapist Eligibility Criteria & Filling Vacancies**

Dear Deputy Daly

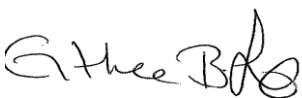
Thank you for query - *“A Staff Grade Physiotherapist, employed in a sub-acute rehabilitation hospital, has been qualified for eight years. To be eligible for a Senior Physiotherapist position, it is required to have three years of experience. To participate in the HSE process of recruitment involves a national panel; the last national panel campaign took place in 2016. This person would not have been eligible in 2016, but has been eligible for some time after. In 2021, a supplementary senior panel campaign was held and the person placed very highly on the competency based review. However, it has subsequently transpired that only those physiotherapists currently working in primary care are eligible for Senior Physiotherapist roles. The person understandably feels that they have been held back in their career for too many years and are concerned about future prospects given the limitations presented by a) the number of panels; and b) the limitation on who can apply for Senior Physiotherapist roles.”*

HSE recruitment to fill vacancies for Senior Physiotherapists has previously taken a national campaign approach, producing national panels to which opportunities are presented. More recently however, where this national approach has proven unsuccessful, vacancies for Senior Physiotherapist have been recruited locally by the relevant hiring services. This more local approach has proven effective and is currently ongoing where required, all opportunities are openly advertised on the HSE website and prospective applicants encouraged to regularly review this site for jobs posted.

Recruitment to Senior Physiotherapist roles in the HSE is open to applications from all candidates meeting the eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria does not include a limitation to candidates working in primary care.

I hope this clarifies the position. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Eithne Fox**  
**Assistant National Director of HR, HR Shared Services**