

23rd September, 2021

Mr. Sean Fleming T.D.,
Minister of State,
Dept of Finance,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 42197/21

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will re-examine bringing in staff on a contract basis with regard to the major issue in relation to the lack of speech and language therapists in the midland region especially to assist children who need this facility in view of the fact that due to operational reasons the HSE cannot provide this facility through its own staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Sean Fleming

Dear Minister Fleming,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and I outline response as follows.

Presently there are a number of vacancies for Speech and Language Therapy staff within the Midlands Region of HSE CHO8.

Area	Vacancies
Laois/Offaly	2
Longford/Westmeath	4

I can confirm that approval has been given to employ agency staff pending the permanent appointment of these vacancies.

Laois/Offaly:

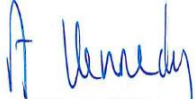
I can confirm that two (2) agency starting 16th September 2021. Initial assessment waiting time was 12 months but due to work over the summer months this has reduced to 8 weeks.

Longford/Westmeath:

I can confirm that we are presently recruiting agency staff. Initial assessment waiting time is 34 weeks. This waiting time will be reduced as quickly as possible when staff are recruited.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regards.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Kennedy
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation