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Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta, Oibríochtaí Pobail  
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17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Deputy David Stanton,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 6414/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech and language therapists currently employed on a permanent contract; the number employed on a temporary basis in each of the community healthcare organisation areas; the number of these speech and language therapists who were newly appointed to permanent contracts in each of these areas each year from 2018 to 2021 inclusive; the number of children and adults currently on waiting lists for speech and language therapy in each of these areas in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-David Stanton**

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Dear Deputy Stanton,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The information is not available in the format requested, however detailed information on the number of HSE staff grades of those disciplines by location is publicly available on the HSE website at [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie). The national version of this report can be found at the attached hyperlink: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/national-reports.html> or for information pertaining to a more specific area can be found at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/> broken down by Community Health Organisation, Hospital Group, etc. This can be used to access the number of staff changes over the years specified, but note these lists do not specify whether a contract is permanent or temporary.

Additional to this, please see attached Appendix 1 which lists data for the total number of patients awaiting initial assessment as at December 2021 which is the latest data available at this time.

The HSE is working to ensure timely access to children and adults requiring speech and language therapy services, and to reduce long waiting times for this important service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne O'Neill', written over a horizontal line.

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Yvonne O'Neill,  
National Director,  
Community Operations