

8th March 2022

Ms. Holly Cairns, TD.
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 9542/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if there are vacant positions for speech and language therapists in CHO4; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

Primary Care

The implementation of the Community Health Network model has provided Primary Care with a number of new development posts. There have been 21 Speech and Language Therapy vacancies in the 12 months to March 2022. Fifteen vacancies have been filled to date. A further five posts have been accepted and one post is at recruitment stage.

Replacement of core posts/or part thereof is proactively recruited to the funded base to maintain continuity of service. There are 2 Speech and Language Therapy core posts approved to fill as at the end of February 2022.

Disability Services

At any point in time there are a number of vacancies across our Adult Services and Childrens Disability Network Teams due to statutory leave entitlements and staff movement. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and each lead agency have an active recruitment campaign for funded vacancies arising. There are currently 9.32 WTE Speech and Language Therapy vacancies across Disability Services.

Mental Health Services

There are currently 4 Speech and Language Therapy posts vacant within Cork Mental Health Services. Two of these posts have been accepted and the remaining two posts have been expressed to the Speech and Language Therapy panel. There are three vacant Speech and Language Therapy posts in Kerry Mental Health Services, interviews for which are taking place this week.

Older Persons Services

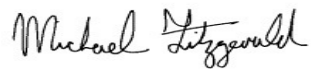
All Speech and Language Therapy posts in Older Persons Services are either filled or have an agreed start date with a successful candidate.

I can confirm that all funded replacement posts (such as backfills for resignations, retirements or promotions) are approved by the relevant Head of Service and by myself as Chief Officer without delay. Once approved, the posts are immediately progressed for filling either through the HSE's

National Recruitment Service or via our own Workforce Resource Unit in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Fitzgerald
Chief Officer

