

8th March 2022

Ms. Holly Cairns, TD,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 9543/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if there are vacant positions for occupational 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

There have been 53 vacancies by way of new developments in the 12 months to March 2022. Thirty six vacancies have been filled and the remaining 17 vacancies are in recruitment.

Replacement of core posts/or part thereof is proactively recruited to the funded base to maintain continuity of service. There are 2 Occupational 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 9.65 WTE Occupational Therapy vacancies across Disability Services in Cork and Kerry.

Mental Health

There are currently 9 Occupational Therapist vacancies within Mental Health Services across Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. There are broken down as follows:

Cork MHS:

- 5 vacant posts at staff grade level have been offered out to the national panel via the HSE National Recruitment Service
- 1 temporary staff grade post has been offered out to the national panel via the HSE National Recruitment Service

Kerry MHS

- 2 Senior Occupational Therapist posts been offered out to the national panel via the HSE National Recruitment Service
- 1 Senior Occupational Therapist has been accepted.

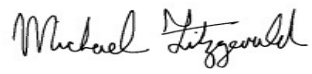
Older Persons Services

All Occupation 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.



Michael Fitzgerald
Chief Officer