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PQ Ref 1427/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of suicide resource officers employed by the HSE; the number of vacant posts; the length of time these posts have been vacant; when they will be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

There are presently 19 Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention (ROSPs) in position across HSE CHOs nationally. Contact details for these ROSPs and their related areas are publicly available [here](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/nosp/resourceofficers/). <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/nosp/resourceofficers/>

Further, there are also 4 ROSP posts presently vacant;

- CHO 3 Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary - 1.0 WTE vacant since February 2021. Two recruitment campaigns for the post were unsuccessful and other options are currently being considered.
- CHO 7 Kildare, West Wicklow – 1.0 WTE vacant since October 2021 with recruitment process underway.
- CHO 8 Louth, Meath – 1.0 WTE vacant since February 2020 - arrangements have continued in place to ensure service needs have been met during this period. While internal appeals processes have affected timelines with regard to the filling of this post to date, HSE Midlands Louth Meath remain actively focused on progressing this post through the recruitment process as a priority. This will be progressed in early course when this process has concluded.
- CHO 8 Longford, Westmeath – 1.0 WTE vacant since mid-January 2022 with active progression to temporarily fill this post with a Specified Purpose Contract for six months.



I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Meehan'.

Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Planning
& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

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