



1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 33820/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the total number of occupational therapy posts in the children's disability network team in County Carlow; the number of these posts that are filled; the number of these posts that are vacant; and the length of time that each post has remained vacant.**

**PQ 33821/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the total number of speech and language posts in the children's disability network team in County Carlow; the number of these posts that are filled; the number of these posts that are vacant; and the length of time that each post has remained vacant.**

**PQ 33822/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the children's disability network team in County Carlow is operating at 25% capacity; and the measures that are being taken to rectify this situation.**

Dear Deputy Funchion,

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

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

Under the new Progressing Disability Services children with non-complex needs will be offered services through Primary Care and children with complex needs will be offered services through the Children's Disability Network Teams. Children with complex needs associated with their disabilities access services from a Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). These Children's Disability Networks (CDN) are aligned to the Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs). Services and supports provided are based on children's needs rather than diagnosis and regardless of where they live or which schools they attend. This aligns with the objectives of Slaintecare and the Programme for Government.

I confirm that the whole time equivalent (WTE) Speech & Language Therapist (SLT) posts allocated to the CDNT in Carlow is 3.51. While there are currently no SLT vacancies on the Team however, due to a number of various unforeseen leave arrangements the SLT service is not at full capacity. This situation should resolve in the coming weeks.



I can confirm that the Occupational Therapist (OT) posts allocated to the CDNT in Carlow is 4.0 and there are no OT vacancies on the Team.

There is a total of 18.28 WTE posts allocated to the CDNT in Carlow. At the moment there are 1.5 WTE vacancies on the Team namely, Psychology (1.0 WTE) and Dietetics (0.5 WTE). Every effort has and continues to be made to recruit in to these posts including local and national recruitment campaigns and agency staff.

As with other areas, Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are experiencing significant recruitment challenges.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

**Oliver Reilly**

**Acting Head of Service, Disability Service**

**South East Community Healthcare**