



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
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13th June 2022

Mr. Matt Shanahan T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 28091/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of Speech and Language Therapists who are currently employed by the HSE in University Hospital Waterford and in community services in County Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 28092/22

To ask the Minister for Health the expected number of additional speech and language therapists who will be hired in Waterford city and county, outlining between community and hospital positions; the timeframe for this; if he will outline the recruitment process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shanahan

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following composite reply outlines the current position.

Primary Care Services

There are 16.05 WTE approved Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) positions in Waterford Primary Care services. Currently there are 10.85 WTE SLTs providing this service in Waterford Primary Care services. There are 3 permanent vacancies to fill in Waterford SLT services. These posts are progressing through the stages of recruitment. There is a current campaign underway for Senior Grade staff and a panel will be created for future vacancies.

Disability Services

South East Community Healthcare has advised as follows:

Three Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) were established (27th September 2021) across County Waterford. There are 3 Senior and 3 Staff Grade Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) in post across the three CDNTs in Waterford. There are however 1 Senior SLT and 3.8 Staff Grade SLT

posts vacant. A Senior Speech and Language Therapy recruitment campaign is currently underway in South East Community Healthcare (SECH) the closing date for which is 14th June 2022.

As with other areas all services within CHO South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are experiencing significant recruitment challenges due to shortages of Health & Social Care Professionals (including Speech & Language Therapists) across the country.

The HSE/SECH is reviewing all options to address vacancies as quickly as possible. Vacant posts have been advertised and in some cases re-advertised unsuccessfully. In addition the HSE continues to express posts out to the national panels.

Acute Services - University Hospital Waterford

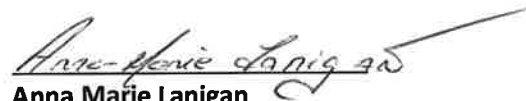
Acute Services have provided the following information in relation to University Hospital Waterford. The WTE figures for Speech & Language Therapy are:

- 1WTE SLT (Manager) (Assigned to & paid by WCC but Manages the staff in UHW)
- 2.8WTE SLT (Senior)
- 3WTE SLT (Basic)

There are 2 WTE Basic Grade posts awaiting filling (offered to HBS Recruit National panel but not accepted). Acute Services have advertised a basic grade campaign for UHW on the HSE Website and UHW Twitter, and interviews are scheduled to take place in July 2022. UHW currently has 1 WTE Senior Grade post to be filled from July 2022 onwards and advertised for a Senior Grade Campaign on the HSE Website and UHW Twitter, interviews also due to take place in July 2022.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Primary Care Services/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare