

13th June 2022

Mr. Deputy Marc Ó Cathasaigh TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 28126/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech and language therapists that are currently employed by the HSE in Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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PQ 28127/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of new speech and language positions that are being created in Waterford; the process for the recruitment of new therapists; the timeframe for recruitment of therapists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,

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 response 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

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. It is expected to recruit 1 additional Senior Grade Speech and Language Therapist in Waterford.

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.

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 Service-Primary Care
Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare