



Cúntóir Feidhmiúcháin Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta AD
Seirbhísí Roinnte AD, AD Náisiúnta

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26th October 2022

Deputy Tully
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: Pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

PQ Reference 45184/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the pro-active measures that he and his Department are now taking to attract physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and orthoptists since these roles were added to the critical skills list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Pauline Tully

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, submitted by you to the Minister for Health. This matter has been referred to me for response on behalf of the HSE.

The HSE is operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. To this end, the HSE has established a national programme to develop robust resourcing strategies for the health services short, medium and long term.

As the HSE drives towards community based service delivery this increases significantly the numbers of health and social care professionals that the service requires. To this end, large national campaigns were managed over the summer to target and capture new graduate Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech & Language Therapists, Dieticians, and Psychologists from Irish colleges. These campaigns attracted strong interest and these panels are being used to fill both new and existing posts.

However the HSE recognises that the national pool will not satisfy either the current or future needs and to this end international campaigns has been launched for these grades. These campaigns have attracted significant interest and currently these candidates are being screened for eligibility. To support these international campaigns the HSE is working in partnership with CORU, the regulator, and government departments to maximise this pool.

In order to fully realise the international market the HSE is currently developing the clinical infrastructure necessary to provide clinical placements for overseas applicants in order to help them secure a license to practice in this country.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Winnington
Assistant National Director of HR