



14th October 2022

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 48778/22

To ask the Minister for Health when the three vacant whole-time equivalent speech and language therapists will be filled; the steps that he has taken to ensure that these posts are filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Funchion,

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

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

The whole time equivalent (WTE) Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) post allocation to Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) in Carlow is 3.51. CDNT - Network 1 Carlow currently has one Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) working 3 days per week (0.71 WTE). The remaining 2.8 WTE SLT posts are vacant.

As with other areas disability services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are experiencing significant recruitment challenges. A SECH campaign has recently concluded for Senior SLT and a Staff Grade SLT national campaign is currently underway. Unfortunately, to date CDNT - Network 1 has been unsuccessful in filling the Senior SLT post from the recent panel.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Anne Ennis
Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare