



12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 49128/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant speech and language therapist posts across all healthcare services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 49129/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant occupational therapy posts across all healthcare services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 49130/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant physiotherapy posts across all healthcare services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 49131/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant psychologists across all healthcare services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 in relation to vacant South East Community Healthcare posts.*

**Table: Current number of vacant therapy posts in County Wexford**

Co. Wexford	No. of vacant post in Physiotherapy	No. of vacant posts in Occupational Therapy	No. of vacant posts in Speech & Language Therapy	No. of vacant posts in Psychology Services
Primary Care	20.4 WTEs	10.1 WTEs	11.9 WTEs	4.5 WTEs (staff grade) which includes 1 at contracting stage with the National Recruitment Service 1 WTE Psychology Asst.
Mental Health Services	0	1 WTE	0	2WTE Posts approved for filling via expressions of interest.
Disability Services	2 WTE (CDNTs)	3 WTE (CDNTs)	4 (CDNTs)	4 WTE (CDNTs)



	SECH panel recently formed for Senior Physiotherapists. Staff Grade Physiotherapy national campaign underway. CDNT - Network 11 Enniscorthy has recruited a Senior Physiotherapist (commenced October).	SECH panel recently formed for Senior OTs. Staff Grade OT national panel in place with a supplementary campaign underway. Senior OT post for CDNT - Network 10 is currently at pre clearance stage.	Senior SLT campaign at interview stage. Staff Grade SLT national campaign is underway.	Senior Psychologist and Staff Grade Psychologist national panel are now in place.
<b>Services for Older People</b>	1 WTE post i.e. 1 post is a Maternity (due to end in Nov.)	1 WTE Staff Grade St. John's Hospital - Plan to fill November 2022	0.5 WTE 0.5 WTE within the rehabilitation unit, St. John's Hospital Enniscorthy vacant since June 2022. Replacement post is being actively recruited for.	0

As with other areas disability services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are experiencing significant recruitment challenges. SECH continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns. We are acutely aware of the high demand for services in our CHO and the impact of delays in accessing services on children and families. In the interim, the Children's Disability Network Managers (CDNM) are exploring different ways to offer support to children and families currently waiting to access services. This includes developing webinars, group based workshops, information sessions and the development of a repository of resources for children and their families to promote and enable wellbeing at home.

From a national perspective significant challenges are being experienced in relation to the on-going recruitment of allied health professionals. Within South East Community Healthcare there is a continued focus on the recruitment across all therapy grades.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Ms. Kate Killeen White**  
**Chief Officer**  
**South East Community Healthcare**