



Head of Service
Disability Services

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

South East Community Healthcare,
HSE, Lacken, Dublin Road,
Kilkenny

t 087 1880042

20th April 2023

Mr. Michael Lowry TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 16869/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he is aware that the two senior psychologists working in CHO5 children's disability network team, Clonmel, have both issued notice of their intent to resign and will be vacating their posts in the coming weeks; the efforts his Department will take to guarantee that these senior psychologist positions are filled immediately in order that the senior psychologist vacancies do not impact on the CHO5 CDNT waiting lists/times; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lowry,

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.

Currently there are two Senior Psychologists working in Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) – Network 5 Clonmel, unfortunately both have issued letters of resignation and will be vacating their posts in the coming weeks.

The relevant paperwork has been completed and approved for both these posts to be filled. The paperwork has been submitted to HSE recruitment and will be offered out to the current panel by recruitment. It is hoped that both posts will be filled through Senior Psychology panels currently in place. In the event that one or both posts are not filled, efforts will be made to secure Psychology Services through external agencies.

As with other areas Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges. The HSE is operating in a very competitive market as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals nationally and internationally.

South East Community Healthcare continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns.

The HSE acknowledges that waiting times for CDNT service at this time are particularly stressful for children and their families, and will continue to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff into our CDNTs.

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