



24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Mr. Jackie Cahill TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 17029/23**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of dietitian posts allocated to the 12 CDNTs covering the south east; how many of those are vacant as of 31 March 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 17028/23**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of dietitian posts allocated to the 2 CDNTs in South Tipperary; the numbers of those posts vacant; if there are any plans to fill those vacancies with agency staff until the posts have been filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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 is the current position.*

The number of Dietitian Posts allocated to the 12 Children's Disability Network Teams is 6.2 WTEs. The current vacancies are as follows:

<b>Vacant Dietitian Posts</b>	<b>WTE</b>
CDNT – Network 1 Carlow	1.0
CDNT – Network 6 Dungarvan	1.0
CDNT – Network 9 Gorey	0.5
CDNT – Network 11 Enniscorthy	0.5
CDNT – Network 8 New Ross	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.0 WTE's</b>

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anne Ennis', written in blue ink.

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