



Office of Chief Officer
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

23rd February 2023

Ms. Verona Murphy TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 6309/23

To ask the Minister for Health the current total number of speech and language therapist posts across all healthcare services in County Wexford, primary care services, mental health, disability and services for older people; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 6310/23

To ask the Minister for Health the current number of occupational therapy posts across all healthcare services in County Wexford, primary care services, mental health, disability and services for older people; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 6311/23

To ask the Minister for Health the current total number of physiotherapy posts across all healthcare services in County Wexford, primary care services, mental health, disability and services for older people; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 6312/23

To ask the Minister for Health the current total number of psychologist posts across all healthcare services in County Wexford, primary care services, mental health, disability and services for older people; 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 examined the matter and the following composite response outlines the current position.

At the outset please be advised that in the current job environment and with continuing recruitment, information provided below in relation to current posts is subject to ongoing change.

Speech and Language Therapy Services

Care Group/Service	WTE (Feb. 2023)	Comment
Primary Care	16.3 WTE	
Disability Services Children's Disability Network Team	5.64 WTE	Senior and Staff SLT
Mental Health Services Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	1 WTE	
Services for Older Persons	1 WTE	

Physiotherapy Services

Care Group/Service	WTE (Feb. 2023)	Comment
Primary Care	18.7 WTE	There are 2 WTEs in Paediatric Primary Care, 6 WTEs in Chronic Disease. There is also a Physiotherapy Manager.
Disability Services Children's Disability Network Team	3.43 WTE	Senior
Mental Health Services Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	-	-
Services for Older Persons	2 WTE	2 X 0.5 Physiotherapists ICPOP plus Rehabilitation St. John's Hospital catchment area

Psychology Services

Care Group/Service	WTE (Feb. 2023)	Comment
Primary Care	12.2 WTE	Principal, Senior, Staff Grade (2.5 Vacant), Psy Asst Grade, Memory Assessment Support Service, Chronic Disease
Disability Services Children's Disability Network Team	4 WTE	Senior posts
Mental Health Services Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	9.2 WTE (Adult) 2.6 WTE (CAMHS)	Psychology and Assistant Psychology
Services for Older Persons	-	1 X Senior Clinical Psychologist with Memory Assessment Support Service.

Occupational Therapy

Care Group/Service	WTE (Feb. 2023)	Comment
Primary Care	19.7 WTE	
Disability Services Children's Disability Network Team	4 WTE	Senior and Basic
Mental Health Services Adult	6 WTE	
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	2 WTE	
Services for Older Persons	4 WTE	

In addition there are a number of Allied Health Professional vacant posts across the region including Wexford. As with other areas South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are experiencing recruitment challenges.

The level of demand for allied health professionals across the health service has increased significantly. It is a very competitive market (nationally and internationally). There are particular challenges in filling posts both locally and nationally across Children's Disability Services, Primary Care and Mental Health Services.

SECH continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns. International recruitment is also being actively pursued and all options are being explored for recruitment of vacant posts.

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. Kate Killeen-White
Chief Officer
South East Community Healthcare