



7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 4308/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if there is any current investigation ongoing into the crisis facing recruitment in Carlow and Kilkenny's children's disability network teams; 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 HSE acknowledges the challenges in meeting the demand for children's disability services and is acutely conscious of how this impacts on children and their families.

As with other areas Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges. SECH like other areas across the HSE is operating in a very competitive recruitment market both nationally and internationally. The HSE and the various Lead Agencies experience ongoing challenges recruiting staff across a range of disciplines and grades.

However the HSE is committed to ongoing recruitment to our Disability Services and Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs).

SECH continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns. The HSE have also commenced an international recruitment campaign for therapy staff and it is hoped that we will be in a position to fill more vacancies from this process. The interviews are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.

The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff across all aspects of the health services including liaison with third level institutions in the area.

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



Yours sincerely,

*Anne Ennis*

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