



Office of the Head of Primary Care  
South East Community Healthcare  
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18<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 34177/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health when his Department will approve additional funding to increase the current 0.6 WTE orthodontic specialists appointed to orthodontic 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 examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.*

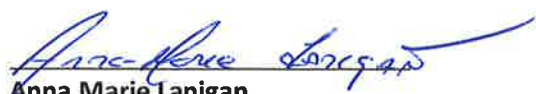
The orthodontic service in South East Community Healthcare (SECH) is a regional service across Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford.

There is 1 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Consultant and 2.6 WTE Specialists for the whole of SECH although there is 1 WTE vacant Consultant post and 2.6 vacant Specialist posts across the region. There is currently 0.6 WTE Specialist working in Kilkenny, 0.6 WTE Specialist in Wexford, 0.6 WTE Specialist in Clonmel and 0.8 WTE Specialist in Waterford. When additional staff are recruited they can opt to work in any of the 4 clinics.

There have been no applicants for the vacant Specialist/Consultant posts. The Consultant post has been vacant for a year and the HSE have re-advertised same on several occasions. The Specialist posts are being advertised again since a retirement occurred in April and no applicants applied at that time.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Anna Marie Lanigan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Anna Marie Lanigan**

**Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director  
South East Community Healthcare**