



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

31st July 2023

Mr. Michael Lowry TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 35986/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth confirm the number of full-time speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, and clinical nurses currently employed in the Children's Disability Network Team 5 in CH05

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.

There is one full time Speech and Language Therapist assigned to the post within CDNT – Network 5 Clonmel. There is 0.8 WTE – one full time Occupational Therapist in post and one full time Clinical Nurse in post. While we have 2.8 WTE employed in the above posts, there is currently 1.0 WTE on statutory leave.

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. SECH continues to prioritise local competitions for all disciplines and continues to express posts out to current national panels where relevant.

The HSE acknowledge that waiting times for CDNT service at this time are not appropriate and 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,

Karen Fitzgerald
A/Head of Service – Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare