

23rd May, 2023

Mr. Denis Naughten, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 21809/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant speech and language therapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO4; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Speech and Language Therapy Department sees children aged 0 to 18 years, who have speech or language difficulties as their primary need. Children who may benefit from speech and language therapy may have some of the following needs:

- Speech: difficulty making speech sounds.
- Language: difficulty understanding and/or using words and sentences.
- Stammering or Stuttering: difficulty with fluent speech (getting stuck on words).
- Voice: hoarseness or loss of voice (in some instances a referral by G.P. to the E.N.T. Department is required).
- Social communication: difficulty with using language appropriately and following the rules of conversation.

There is currently a total of 8 WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) Speech & Language Therapy vacancies in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare at present.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**