



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir

Bloc B, Lárionad Cathrach, An tSráid
Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill Mhantáin, A98 X329.

Head of Service Primary Care
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23rd May 2023

Deputy Denis Naughten TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re ref: PQ 21830/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant optometry and ophthalmology roles in primary care services in CHO6; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Re ref: PQ 21811/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant speech and language therapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO6; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Re ref: PQ 21840/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant occupational therapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO6; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Re ref: PQ 21799/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant physiotherapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO6; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Re ref: PQ 21820/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant psychotherapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO6; 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 Representation, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

For ease of reference in relation to the above five PQs I have presented the information on two tables. The first table relates to the posts you have queried in children's primary care services that are vacant, however the recruitment process is advanced and these posts will be filled in the coming months. The second table demonstrates the outstanding vacancies that have not



been filled by the most recent recruitment process. These posts are part of a rolling recruitment process that continues until all posts are filled.

By way of note;

- 1 fulltime post is equal to 1 x Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)
- Community Healthcare East comprises of 8 Community Healthcare Networks (CHN)
- Optometry/Ophthalmology posts work across all CHNs
- Psychotherapist is not a typical primary care grade. I have given you the vacancies for Psychologists, who may deliver psychotherapy

Table 1: Primary Care Children’s posts currently in the recruitment process:

	Optometry/ Ophthalmology	Speech & Language Therapy	Occupational Therapy	Physiotherapy	Psychology/ Psychotherapy
CHO6	1 x WTE	3 x WTE	1 x WTE	0	1 x WTE Senior Clinical Psychologist 2 x WTE Assistant Psychologist

Table 2: Primary Care Children’s posts currently vacant:

	Optometry/ Ophthalmology	Speech & Language Therapy	Occupational Therapy	Physiotherapy	Psychology/ Psychotherapy
CHN 1	0	1.5 x WTE	0.5 x WTE	0.5 x WTE	0
CHN 2	0	0	0	0	0
CHN 3	0	0	0	0.5 x WTE	0
CHN 4	0	0	0	0	0
CHN 5	0	1 x WTE	0.5 x WTE	0	0
CHN 6	0	0	0	0	0
CHN 7	0	0	0	0	0
CHN 8	0	2 x WTE	0.5 x WTE	0.5 x WTE	0
Total:	0	4.5 x WTE	1.5 x WTE	1.5 x WTE	0



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niamh McAlinden', written over a horizontal line.

Niamh McAlinden,
Head of Service, Primary Care