

14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

Mr Thomas Gould, TD.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 26125/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on the return of therapists to special schools; the number that have returned to Cork schools; and the number that will return in September, by role, in tabular form.”**

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) have been established to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area. The CDNT’s are supporting special schools in their area with a range of expertise as needed and within resources available.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) received:

- a) 5.8 posts under Minister Rabbitte’s Special School allocation in 2021. 4.8WTEs have been filled\* and 1.0WTE Psychology post is still vacant and challenging to fill.
- b) 26.0 posts for special schools awarded in August 2022. The following tables shows the number of posts allocated, filled\* or at various stages in the recruitment process. It is difficult to say how many will be filled by September 2023.

\* Many senior posts have been filled by promotion of staff grades from within CDNTs. These staff grades also now need to be backfilled before you will see an overall increase in numbers within teams. Again it is a challenge to give you a timeline for when posts will be fully available to special schools. Currently CDNTs are supporting special schools with their current staffing complement to the level that was requested in the memo from the HSE August 2022- I.e. one third allocation or nine WTE equivalent.

**Table 1 - 5.8 WTEs for Special Schools - 2021**

Discipline	Grade	WTE allocated	WTE filled	Current status	CDNT	Lead Agency
Psychologist	Staff	1.0	1.0		Central Cork CDNT8	Cope
Physiotherapist	Senior	0.5	0.5		Central Cork CDNT8	Cope
OT	Staff	0.5	0.5		Central Cork CDNT8	Cope
Psychologist	Staff	1.0	1.0		South East Cork City CDNT11	Enable
SLT	Staff	1.0	1.0		South East Cork City CDNT11	Enable

Psychologist	Staff	0.8	0.8		West Central Cork CDNT12	Enable
Psychologist	Staff	1.0	0.0	Unable to fill	Bandon / Carrigaline / Kinsale CDNT13	BOC
<b>Total</b>		<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>			

**Table 2 - 26.0 WTEs for Special Schools – 2022**

Status of Posts

WTE allocated	Current status	WTE
<b>CKCH 26.0WTE</b>	At Advertisement	18.17
	Interview Pending	0.70
	Job Offer Issued	0.12
	Job Offer Accepted	4.00
	Recruitment Complete	1.60
	Backfills Required	1.06
	Exploring option to increase hours of existing staff	0.35
		<b>26.00</b>

As stated above it is not possible to indicate the number that will be in post by September until all recruitment processes are completed, backfills achieved and given the stages that the posts are currently at.

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

Yours sincerely

*Majella Daly*

**Ms. Majella Daly,  
Head of Disability Services,  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**