



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
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1st November 2023

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,
Dail Eireann
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 44853/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will detail the number of speech and language therapists for each CHO area employed for disability services in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, tabular form.

HSE Response

The HSE is the largest employer in the State, with approximately 92,950 whole time equivalent (WTE) direct HSE employees and approximately 50,125 WTE employees of S38 agencies funded by the HSE (end of September 2023 figures). These figures do not include employees of S39 agencies funded by the HSE for the provision of services.

There are currently 20,328 WTEs employed in Disability Services (HSE and S38 agencies)

Disability Service provision includes a wide range of services for children and adults with disabilities which includes for example; Residential Services, Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services and Therapeutic Supports.

The majority of disability service provision in Ireland has historically and continues to be provided by voluntary agencies which provide services to people with disabilities. These agencies are funded under Section 38 and Section 39 of the Health Act 2004. The HSE works in partnership with these agencies to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability and their families, within the resources available.

Information pertaining to staffing levels in health services are generated by the HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit. Information is available per care group area including Disability Services and can be obtained at the following web link:



<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce>

It is important to note that the reports provided by the HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit refer to staff numbers in the HSE and in S38 organisations and do not include staff employed in S39 organisations.

Currently the HSE and its funded agencies are operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe.

The HSE and Service Providers continue to explore a wide range of options and initiatives to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

**Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

