



Cnoc Na Rí
St. Patricks Campus
Cashel
Co. Tipperary
E25 DX72

Telephone: 353 62 27967

9th July 2024

Ms. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 28109/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of WTE speech and language therapist in each CDNT based in counties Carlow and Kilkenny in the years of 2022, 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

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.

The following table outlines the number of WTE Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) in each CDNT based in counties Carlow and Kilkenny in the years of 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024:

Year	Post	CDNT Network 1 Carlow	CDNT Network 2 Thomastown	CDNT Network 3 Kilkenny
2024	SLT basic	0	2.00	0
2024	Senior SLT	1.71	0.80	2.20
2023	SLT basic	0	1.00	0
2023	Senior SLT	0.71	0.80	2.20
2022	SLT basic	0	2.00	1.00
2022	Senior SLT	2.50	0.80	2.00

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 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 CDNT's.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Dwan".

Ms. Paula Dwan
General Manager for Children's Disability Services, South East Community Healthcare