



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

24/04/2024

Ms. Verona Murphy TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ 11998/24

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of current vacancies within the HSE Orthodontic services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 11995/24

To ask the Minister for Health when his Department will approve additional funding to increase the current orthodontic specialist appointment to orthodontic services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

In relation to PQ1198/24 I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position:

The orthodontic service in South East Community Healthcare (SECH) is a regional service across Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. There are no vacancies specific to Co. Wexford.

There is currently 1 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Consultant Orthodontist and 2.6 WTE Specialist Orthodontists within the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) area. Specialist Orthodontist services are provided as follows:

- 0.6 wte in Kilkenny, Clonmel and Wexford
- 0.8 wte in Waterford

At present there are 1.0 WTE Consultant Orthodontist, 2.6 Specialist Orthodontist and 1.2 Orthodontic Dental Nurse vacancies across South East Community Health Care. There have been no applicants for the vacant Specialist/Consultant posts to date, despite being advertised on a number of occasions.

In relation to PQ11995/24 I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

There are currently 0.6 WTE Specialist Orthodontic covering Orthodontic services for all of County Wexford patients, which is insufficient to manage the need for treatment and the waiting list continues to rise.

It has proven very difficult to recruit Specialist Orthodontists within CHO5 in the last few years. There were no applicants for 2 posts advertised prior to the current HSE recruitment pause.

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

Yours sincerely,



Anna Marie Lanigan

**Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare**