



**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

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Mr. James Geoghegan, TD

15 April 2025

**PQ 16495/25 (Children): To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to provide specific examples of where the HSE has been supported by external providers in accessing international candidate markets to source both occupational therapists and speech and language therapists; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

The HSE maintain a panel of external suppliers to support international recruitment for Health and Social Care Professionals. The procurement model in use allows for the continual addition of qualified providers to expand the HSE's access to global candidate markets.

Both Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language Therapy are regulated professions. Practitioners must be registered with CORU to practice in Ireland. International candidates must in the first instance have their professional qualification recognised by the regulator to be considered for registration. The WHO predicted healthcare professional shortage, global differences in professional qualifications and clinical practice, a regulatory environment and language difference make the international recruitment of these specific professions extremely challenging. The HSE offer a competitive relocation package, attractive terms and conditions of employment and engage directly with the regulator to safely stream processes for the recognition of international qualifications,

The HSE has sought the international recruitment of both a number of Occupational Therapists and Speech & Language Therapists via these suppliers for various services. The HSE can cite as specific examples the appointment of two Occupational Therapists via this supplier panel.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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Mairéad Ryan  
National HR