

24th April, 2025

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 4976/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of unfilled vacant positions in the Donegal HSE mental health services which are vacant, unfilled or filled on a temporary, agency and locum basis, at staff grade level, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the below table outlines the current number of unfilled vacant positions within Donegal Mental Health Service (DMHS).

Vacant Posts DMHS	Total	Breakdown	Comment
Nursing Posts	16	6 Staff Nurses	Agency covering
		1 Assistant Director of Nursing	Interviews completed on 10 th March 2025 and a panel is in place.
		2 Healthcare Assistants	Agency covering
		3 Clinical Nurse Manager 2	Temporary Higher Appointment in position
		1 Director of Nursing Mental Health Assistant	Interviews completed on 10 th March 2025 and a panel is in place.
		1 Multi-task Attendant	Agency covering
		2 Clinical Nurse Specialist	2 posts have been accepted and candidates are at the HR clearance stage
Addiction Counsellor	1	1 Addiction Counsellor	Post requires escalation by the service for Regional Executive Officer (REO) approval

Admin Posts	16	6 Grade V Staff Officers	X2 Agency covering X1 Filled on Temporary Contract X3 Vacant - 2 job offers accepted and in clearance stage
		8 Grade IV Assistant Staff Officers	X4 Agency covering X3 Vacant
		1 Grade VII	Post has been accepted and candidate is in clearance stage.
		1 Clerical Officer (Grade III)	Vacant
Occupational Therapy Posts	7	1 Occupational Therapy Manager	Filled on Temporary Contract
		3 Senior Occupational Therapists	Posts require escalation by the service for REO approval.
		3 Basic Grade Occupational Therapists	1 post has been accepted and candidate is in clearance stage
Social Work Posts	4	2 Senior Medical Social Workers	Vacant
		1 Social Worker	Post requires approval by the REO
		1 Senior Social Worker	Stage 1 Approval received; recruitment campaign will be underway in 2 / 3 weeks.
Community Access Facilitators	3	3 Community Access Facilitators	Vacant
Psychology	2	1 Senior Clinical Psychologist	Post requires escalation by the service for REO approval
		1 Psychologist	Post requires escalation by the service for REO approval
Consultant Psychiatrists	2	1 Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist	Agency covering
		1 General Adult Psychiatrist	Vacant - Stage 1 Approval has been received.
Total	51		

I hope this information is of assistance however should you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Pauline Ackermann

General Manager

Mental Health Services CHO1 CDLMS