



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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20th February 2025

Deputy Boland,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 5328/25 To ask the Minister for Health the work her department has undertaken to recruit paediatric audiologists; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Grace Boland

Dear Deputy Boland,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 5328/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE has the following in place to encourage audiologists into the HSE workforce:

- A high standard of eligibility with respect to qualifications and evidenced clinical competency to ensure the quality of the workforce
- An MSc in Audiology provided by University College Cork (typically 10-12 grads per year); successful graduates will be competent in paediatric diagnostic assessment for all age ranges
- An ongoing open campaign for staff grade (entry level) audiologists with periodic interviewing
- Interviews for staff grade audiologists specifically timed to interest UCC MSc in Audiology graduates

HSE Community Audiology services do however experience challenges recruiting Paediatric Audiologists to work in the public sector due to shortage of Qualified Audiologists in the Irish setting. International recruitment has led to some successes however, there is a lead in time due to visa requirements, relocation timelines and in-house training to adapt to the Irish setting.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration