



**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí  
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Roderic O'Gorman, TD

15 July 2025

**PQ 36156/25 (Children): To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if there are financial supports available from the HSE, or other sources, for people who want to return to education to undertake a postgraduate conversion course as a therapist including occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, which would deliver additional therapists into our services more quickly; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**  
**-Roderic O'Gorman**

Dear Deputy,

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

The Irish Health Services recognises the growing demand for qualified therapists, including Occupational Therapists & Speech & Language Therapists, across the Health Service including Disability Services. Ensuring an adequate pipeline of professionals in these fields is a key priority.

The HSE does not currently offer financial supports for people who want to return to education to undertake a postgraduate conversion course as a therapist including occupational therapist, speech and language therapist.

However, the HSE launched a Student Sponsorship for under and post graduate OT, SLT, Physio and Social Work students who are due to graduate and be eligible for CORU registration in 2025. This awards €5,000 coupled with a match to a job in CDNT on a competitive basis. Dependent on the success of this initiative, it will be broadened to other disciplines and years of study, subject to funding. In addition, Apprenticeship opportunities for external and internal staff are available, including Social Work and Social Care Work. The HSE currently have post graduate programmes available across the services for staff wishing to progress within their profession.

Furthermore, the HSE has developed a Career Hub which offers supports and guidance on the multiple routes to education, including direct entry from school and mature students, and informs them of avenues on how to progress their career pathway.

The HSE Resourcing team continue to seek out new pathways and opportunities to broaden the pool of candidates for the HSE.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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Mairéad Ryan  
National HR