



11th July, 2025

Deputy Sorca Clarke
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: PQ reference 38352/25 – Parliamentary Question from Deputy Sorca Clarke requesting the number of WTE Speech & Language therapists based at Edgeworthstown Health Centre in the years of 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

Thank you for your query. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you recently submitted. In preparing this response your Parliamentary Question has been discussed with the relevant Managers. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

WTE = Whole time equivalent. A full-time employee would equate to 1.0 WTE

Year	Number of SLTs based in Edgeworthstown HC	Number of SLTs providing services to Longford Central Westmeath CHN	Reason for difference
2023	0 WTE	Approved: 5.6 WTE Actual:4.5 (incl 0.5 Agency)	1.0 WTE Maternity leave 0.6WTE vacant
2024	0 WTE	Approved: 5.6 WTE Actual:4.5 (incl 0.5 Agency)	1.0 WTE Maternity leave 0.6WTE lost in pay and numbers process
2025	0 WTE	Approved: 5.6 WTE Actual:4.5 (incl 0.5 Agency)	1.0 WTE Maternity leave 0.6WTE lost in pay and numbers process



With the rollout of Enhanced Community Care, Longford's provision boundaries were realigned to Longford & Central Westmeath Community Health Network (CHN). This Community Health Network (CHN) consists of 5 Primary Care Teams (PCT's) – Ballymahon PCT, Edgeworthstown PCT, Granard PCT, Longford PCT 1 and Longford PCT 2.

It was envisaged that every PCT would have staff based in a Primary Care Centre, assigned to deliver services as close to the clients home as possible.

However, with limited accommodation available at Edgeworthstown Health Centre, it is not feasible to deliver an efficient and effective Speech & Language Therapy service from this base. With this consideration, Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) deliver most of the service for the 5 PCTs teams within the CHN from Longfords Primary Care Centre, located in Ballyminion, Athlone Road, Longford.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation