

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí  
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Michael Cahill, TD

29 July 2025

**PQ 40433/25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place to recruit and retain additional therapy staff to meet growing demands in both children's and adult services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**  
**- Michael Cahill**

Dear Deputy,

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

The overall health workforce has increased by 23.9% in the past 5 years. Over this time, the Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) workforce has increased by 30.6% from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020 to May of 2025, from 16,769 WTE to 21,898 WTE.

This is as a result of significant increases in recruitment activity, including -

- Direct targeting of Irish graduates on an annual basis through the colleges and supported by webinars.
- Mandating and supporting services to offer permanent positions to graduates from Irish colleges.
- Targeting candidates overseas, in collaboration with CORU the regulator.
- The development of the HSE Career Hub which is an engagement platform for candidates to support them in their recruitment journey and currently has over 50k members, of which 26% are HSCPs. These members receive weekly notifications of roles that meet their criteria. <https://careerhub.hse.ie/>
- Increased use of digital platforms to reach new markets, which included in May of this year, the 1<sup>st</sup> virtual recruitment fair, which was specific to Disabilities with a strong focus on HSCPs, the event was attended by over 2000 people.
- Direct marketing and profiling of individual services through the HSE Career Hub <https://careerhub.hse.ie/hse-childrens-disability-network-teams/>

The HSE has also worked closely with the DoH, DCEDIY and DFHERIS to significantly increase training opportunities for HSCPs in Irish colleges. This year alone will see an increase of over 300 additional HSCP training places, the commencement of alternative pathways to education through the national tertiary office NTO, and together with the development of the 1<sup>st</sup> Apprenticeship programme for Social workers in 2024.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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Mairéad Ryan  
National HR