



Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta
FSS an Iardheiscirt
Teach Caha,
Páirc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta,
Bóthar na Modh Feirme,
Corcaigh

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7th August 2025

Deputy Liam Quaide, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 42265/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the details of current staffing levels of the older persons community specialist team in the North Lee, Cork integrated health area; to outline the WTE provision of each discipline, including dietician, occupational therapist and speech and language therapist; and for details of recruitment to each role, in each of the years 2022 to 2024 and to date in 2025”.

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“To ask the Minister for Health the details of current staffing levels of the older persons community specialist team in the South Lee, Cork integrated health area; to outline the WTE provision of each discipline, including dietician, occupational therapist and speech and language therapist; and details of recruitment for each role, in each of the years 2022 to 2024 and to date in 2025”.

Dear Deputy Quaide,

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

The Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) community specialist teams provide services for older people who have complex needs and require specialist multidisciplinary intervention to help maintain their independence and live well at home. The teams provide a comprehensive geriatric assessment, where members of the team work together to assess and respond to an older person's needs. Referrals to the ICPPOP service can be obtained via a person's GP or a Consultant Geriatrician outside of the service.

The Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP), as part of the Sláintecare Implementation Plan (2021-2023), seeks to ensure older people with complex care needs can access care quickly, at or near home, through care pathways specifically designed for older people and targeting three areas of focus, Frailty, Falls and Memory.

There are currently three ICPPOP Ambulatory Care 'hubs' operational in Cork and Kerry – 1 in Cork South, 1 in Cork North and 1 in Kerry. The Mallow ICPPOP hub is in the planning stage and a satellite hub is also planned for Bantry. The hubs also provide some rapid access appointments to those who are at risk of hospital attendance or admission if appropriate, to these specialist multidisciplinary clinics and provide specialist Programmes of care / intervention to support Older Persons to remain in their homes in the community.

The staffing level details requested for the two ICPPOP hubs currently operational in Cork – Cork North and Cork South - are set out in the following tables – **PQ 42265/25 (Table 1)** and **PQ 42266/25 (Table 2)**

Table 1 – PQ 42265/25 Cork South City - CST 9. Aligned Hospital: CUH/Bantry

Grades	ECC PNs Approved 2020	On boarded 2022/2023	On boarded but post is now Vacant	Never Recruited	2024 WTE	2025 WTE	Comments
Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine	4.0	4.0		1.0	4.0	4.0	1 WTE Bantry Hospital not yet recruited
Registrar	2.0	2.0		0.0	2.0	2.0	
Team Co-Ordinator (Grade 8)	1.0	1.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	
Advanced Nurse Practitioner (General)	1.0	1.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist (General)	4.0	1.0		3.0	1.0	1.0	
Dietitian, Senior	1.0	0.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	
Occupational Therapist, Senior	2.0	2.0		0.0	2.0	2.0	
Occupational Therapy Assistant	2.0	0.0		1.0	0.0	0.0	1 WTE realigned to Cork North. 1 WTE for Bantry
Physiotherapist, Senior	3.5	2.5		1.0	2.5	2.5	
Physiotherapy Assistant	1.0	1.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	
Speech & Language Therapist, Senior	1.5	1.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	0.5 WTE realigned to Kerry ICPOP
Social Worker, Medical	1.0	0.0		1.0	0.0	0.0	
Grade VI	1.0	1.0			1.0	1.0	
Grade IV	1.5	2.0		0.5	2.0	2.0	1 WTE redirected from ICPOP Cork North City
Grand Total	26.5	18.5	0.0	7.5	18.5	18.5	

Notes:

- Of the 7.5 WTE of the total never recruited, 6.5 WTE relate to the Bantry Spoke which is not yet operational (CST 9a).
- Historically the Cork South Hub was a pilot ICPOP site that integrated staff from Primary Care and Community Teams aligned with Older Persons services. The total WTE for this service is 47 WTE, which includes the Outreach Team.

Table 2 - PQ 42266/25 - Cork North City – CST 10. Aligned Hospital: Mercy University Hospital

Grades	ECC PNs Approved 2020	On boarded 2022/2023	On boarded but post is now Vacant	Never Recruited	2024 WTE	2025 WTE	Comments
Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine	1.0	1.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	
Team Co-Ordinator (Grade 8)	1.0	1.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	
Advanced Nurse Practitioner (General)	1.0	1.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist (General)	3.0	3.0		0.0	3.0	3.0	1 post converted to CNM2
Dietitian, Senior	1.0	0.0		1.0	0.0	0.0	
Occupational Therapist, Senior	2.0	2.0		0.0	2.0	2.0	
Occupational Therapy Assistant	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	Vacant since February 2025
Physiotherapist, Senior	2.0	2.0		0.0	2.0	1.0	1 WTE Maternity Leave
Physiotherapy Assistant	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	Vacant since November 2024
Speech & Language Therapist, Senior	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Vacant since May 2023
Social Worker, Medical	1.0	0.0		1.0	0.0	0.0	
Grade VI	1.0	1.0			1.0	1.0	
Grade IV	2.0	2.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	1 WTE redirected to ICPOP Cork South
Grand Total	18.0	16.0	3.0	2.0	14.0	11.0	

I trust this clarifies the position and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

 Jackie Daly
 Head of Service for Older Persons