



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

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

Office of the Assistant National Director, www.hse.ie
Primary Care Access and Integration @hselive

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: Primarycare.AI@hse.ie

25th July 2025

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

PQ 42757/25 To ask the Minister for Health if she has a long-term plan to increase capacity in the Health Service Executive community audiology to address the long waiting lists in some regions, which are reaching up to 3 years for some children with permanent hearing loss to be seen, and many children over waiting for hearing aid reviews; if she will lift the recruitment freeze; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 42757/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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

- An ongoing open campaign for staff grade (entry level) audiologists with periodic interviewing
- Staff-grade audiologist interviews scheduled to attract recent graduates of the UCC MSc in Audiology programme
- A high standard of eligibility with respect to qualifications and evidenced clinical competency to ensure the quality of the workforce
- Postgraduate opportunities including an MSc in Audiology provided by University College Cork (typically 10-12 grads per year);

The HSE Community Audiology services do however experience challenges recruiting Audiologists to work in the public sector due to shortage of Qualified Audiologists in the Irish setting. International recruitment has achieved some success; however, it involves lead-in time due to visa processing, relocation logistics, and in-house training to adapt to the Irish healthcare context. There is currently no recruitment freeze within the HSE. Each Health Region and national service has been allocated a specified number of Whole-Time Equivalents (WTEs), enabling them to replace, recruit, and prioritise staffing within that approved allocation. This structure allows Health Regions to target resources where there is the greatest need.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration