

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
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Mr. Pádraig Rice, TD

23 June 2025

Revised 8 July 2025

PQ 27916/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent speech and language therapy posts offered annually to new graduates in the HSE, in each of the past five years; to provide a comparison with the number of graduates qualifying each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. – Pádraig Rice

Dear Deputy,

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

The workforce of the HSE increased by 24% between 1st January 2020 to April 2025 equating from 119,818 WTEs to 149,045 WTEs. Regarding Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) there was an increase by 15% for the same years from 1103 WTEs to 1269 WTEs.

The HSE actively targets the recruitment of Irish trained SLT graduates on an annual basis through webinars and high-profile campaigns in anticipation of funded vacancies. Whilst the majority of the recruitment is conducted centrally for this grade some are recruited through local channels.

The 1st table below refers to the number of SLT new graduates who have been panelled following a successful interview. This means that they have deemed competent and they will receive job offers as posts are approved.

Speech and Language Therapist Graduates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Predicted)	Total
	No Campaign	79	79	99	132	389

The 2nd table refers to jobs/ posts offered to the graduates.

Posts offered to Graduates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 to date	TOTAL
Speech & Language Therapist	282	291	412	80	71	1136

The numbers do not correspond, as one relates to individuals placed on a recruitment panel and the latter are job opportunities. Once successful at interview, the candidates are placed on a recruitment panel and as posts are approved, they will be offered posts in order of merit.

These posts are offered out to the panel and candidate's will accept or not depending on their own circumstances and preferences. If they do not accept a post, they will remain on a panel and be offered other opportunities as they arise. Candidates in general will have received multiple offers.

It is important to note all successful candidates interviewed were offered multiple opportunities, and from the 2025 panel there are 22 live posts, which have not yet been filled.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR