



**Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil**  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall  
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach  
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha  
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

**Head of Service, Primary Care**  
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31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Deputy Pearse Doherty  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 11701\25**

***“To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant occupational therapy posts in Donegal; the length of time these posts have been vacant; the number of posts expected to become vacant within the next year.”***

Dear Deputy Doherty

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

I have examined the matter, and the following details below outline the figures for the number of vacant Occupational Therapy (OT) posts, length of time these posts have been vacant, and the number of posts expected to become vacant within the next year in Co. Donegal.

The Primary Care and Social Care Occupational Therapy Service provides community-based assessment and intervention to the people of Donegal. The following data pertains to this service as a whole, as the service strives to work in an integrated manner across the care divisions of Primary Care & Social Care (Disability Services and Older Persons Services).

Current Staffing Levels		
Primary Care	Total WTE	33.9
	Occupied WTE	25.9
	Vacant WTE	8.0
	% Occupancy Rate	76%
Social Care	Total WTE	7.0
	Occupied WTE	4.0
	Vacant WTE	3.0
	% Occupancy Rate	42%



Current Vacancies				
Area	Grade	WTE	Vacancy Date	Comment
Primary Care	Senior OT Hospice	1.0	Nov-22	Post has been forwarded to REO for approval.
	Staff Grade Paediatric OT	1.0	May-24	Post has been forwarded to REO for approval.
	Staff Grade Paediatric OT	1.0	Apr-24	Post has been forwarded to REO for approval.
	Staff Grade OT CDNT	1.0	Dec-23	This post is now to be transferred to CDNT - management of this service to follow up on recruitment and reporting on same.
	Senior OT	1.0	Jan-23	Current post holder in an acting up/promotional role therefore substantive post on hold.
	Senior Paediatric OT	1.0	Sept-24	Recruitment ongoing with expected start date in April 2025.
	Senior Adult OT	1.0	Dec-24	Recruitment ongoing with expected start date in May 2025.
	Senior Adult OT	1.0	Aug-24	Recruitment at contracting stage, start date to be confirmed.
Social Care	Senior OT Intellectual Disability Services	1.0	Mar-22	No EOI's received from existing panel. New Senior OT panel due to go live in coming weeks so this post will be expressed to same.
	Senior OT Specialist Seating Services	1.0	Sep-24	No EOI's received from existing panel. New Senior OT panel due to go live in coming weeks so this post will be expressed to same.
	Clinical Specialist OT Specialist Seating Service	1.0	Jun-24	No EOI's received from existing panel. New Clinical Specialist OT panel due to interviewed in early April 2025.

Upcoming Vacancies				
Area	Grade	WTE	Vacancy Date	Comment
Primary Care	Senior Paediatric OT	2.0	Apr-25	Posts will be forwarded to REO for approval
	Senior OT	2.0	1 x Dec-24* 1 x Commence June-25	* Additional Maternity Leave for June 2025  Posts will be forwarded to REO for approval -both maternity leaves
	Staff Grade OT	1.0	Apr-25	Maternity Leave

It should also be noted that the following posts were unoccupied as of 31st December 2023. These posts were unoccupied due to varying factors including recruitment panel delays, HSCP upgrades and no EOIs from existing panels in posts. These posts were then impacted by the proposed HSE Pay



and Numbers Strategy and HSE Recruitment Embargo and cannot currently be filled or actioned as a result of same.

<b>Service</b>	<b>WTE</b>
Primary Care	9.8
Social Care	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.1</b>

Integrated Healthcare Area HSE West and North West have been actively working to fill posts via Agency conversion, new Development Posts and vacancies arising in 2024 from retirements, resignations and promotions, in the context of the agreed Pay and Numbers Strategy and WTE limits applicable to the HSE West and North West region. A number of posts in our services have been progressed across clinical and management roles. The service is continuing to examine opportunities to prioritise recruitment to the above grades in this context and in order to respond to the needs of the population

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

**Mandy Doyle**

**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil**

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**Head of Service, Primary Care**

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