



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Réigiúnda Daoine  
FSS an Iardheiscirt

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15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Mr. Michael Healy Rae, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 9535/25**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he can address the shortage of dieticians in CH04 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details supplied: Minister in a recent newspaper report it was stated that there is a 174 week wait to see a dietician in CH04 and this is obviously due to the shortage of dietician in the area. Can you advise why there is no recruitment process in place for this role in this area?**

Dear Minister Healy-Rae,

HSE South West 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.

The HSE acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the long wait times to see a Dietitian in HSE South West. We understand that timely access to HSE services, including Dietetics, is essential for the well-being of our Service Users, and we are committed to addressing staffing shortages in a proactive manner.

Recruitment of Dietitians in the HSE South West is an ongoing priority. However, the recruitment process has been impacted by national and international challenges, including the limited availability of suitably qualified candidates and the growing demand for Dietetics services.

The HSE is actively working to address this issue through several initiatives:

1. **Recruitment Campaigns:** The HSE has been conducting recruitment campaigns to attract Dietitians, both nationally and internationally.
  - **National Recruitment:** There is a Dietitian (Staff Grade) NRS Supplementary campaign currently live on the HSE website with a closing date of 16/04/2025. In addition a primary panel is already in existence since 2024.
  - **Local Recruitment:** There are Senior Dietitian panels for Primary Care and Mental Health Services in place since 2023.
  - **International Recruitment:** Following receipt of HSE HR Circular 001/2023 International Recruitment - Relocation Package, HSE South West have recruited 3 Dieticians with 2 more to arrive using CPL recruitment agency as the international recruitment partner on behalf of the HSE.
2. **Retaining Existing Staff:** The HSE are focused on improving staff retention by supporting staff and providing benefits with competitive annual leave, incrementally increasing salary scales, access to the pension scheme and many other benefits.
3. **Collaboration with Educational Institutions:** The HSE is working closely with universities and colleges that offer dietetics programmes to ensure a steady pipeline of



new graduates entering the workforce. Several bursaries have been offered by HSE South West for future filling of Dietitian posts to qualifying UCC MSc Dietetics graduates.

4. **Exploring Alternative Models of Service Delivery:** The HSE are exploring alternative models to expand service capacity, such as the use of technology and remote consultations to address demand while recruitment efforts continue.

The HSE is committed to reducing wait times for dietetic services, and we are actively working to enhance recruitment, retention, and service delivery in HSE South West.

Yours sincerely,

**Annemarie Byrne**

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