

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí  
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

**Chief People Officer**

Health Service Executive,  
Dr Steevens' Hospital,  
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)[@hselive](mailto:@hselive)

t 01 635 2319

e [nationalhr@hse.ie](mailto:nationalhr@hse.ie)

Mr. Pádraig Rice, TD

17 June 2025

**PQ 25998/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved speech and language therapist posts, by grade and clinical site, in tabular form; the number of permanent full-time and part-time posts; the number filled on a temporary, locum or agency basis; and the number of vacant posts. - Pádraig Rice**

Dear Deputy,

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

The data provided herein, sets out the current employment levels for Speech and Language Therapists nationally. In response to the Deputy's question on the approved number of posts, and vacancies, the 2024/2025 Pay and Numbers Strategy makes provision for same based on the principles underpinning the Strategy as follows. The Pay & Numbers Strategy (2024), for Department of Health funded services only, as agreed in July under the auspices of a 2-year expenditure agreement, provided for the retention and funding for approx. 4,000 WTE, that were due to excess recruitment at the end of 2023 and the retention of once of funding provided for COVID-19 posts. This has enabled the retention of 4,000 posts across the publicly funded health system. This agreement has also provided for clarity on the funded workforce for the health services, based on the agreement that as at December 31st, 2023 - all posts occupied and reporting WTE on the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) on this date are comprehended and considered as funded.

Added to this figure in 2024, is a further 3,310 WTE additional new posts, comprised of new service developments and agency conversion. This has provided for a total workforce in 2024, of 129,753 WTE across Department of Health funded services only which was the maximum WTE limit in 2024. In addition, owing to the 2 year expenditure agreement (2024/2025) there are a further 3,553 WTE in new service development posts approved under the National Service Plan 2025. This brings the total funded workforce WTE to a maximum of 133,305 WTE in 2025. Each Health Region and National Service is currently receiving their latest allocation of this maximum WTE limit inclusive of these latest new service development posts.

The monthly Health Service Personnel Census report is used to compare the current variance to this year-end WTE limit. This report is a combination of both vacancies that arise for replacement filling and those that are new service developments for first filling. This report, however, is only available at staff category level only. Therefore, at national and regional level, there is a WTE limit currently in place for Health and Social Care Professionals (H&SCP), of which Speech and Language Therapists are comprehended within. Table 1 below provides the variance against the year-end 2025 WTE limit at the end of April 2025. However it should be noted, that not all new service developments funded under the National Service Plan 2025 are yet reflected in these figures, with the potential for additional H&SCP WTE to be added hereafter. Based on the below Table, there are currently 554 WTE, H&SCPs posts available for filling. Each Health Region and National Service has received their current WTE limit, with as noted above will be updated further to reflect the allocation of the remaining 2025 new service developments. This approach provides for an overarching WTE limit by Health Region, with decisions on priority vacancies for filling, devolved to the relevant Regional Executive Officer and National Director, within their overall WTE Limit.

Of further note the figures below and current Pay and Numbers Strategy apply only to DoH funded services and therefore exclude Disabilities services.

Staff Category	Dec 25 Limit	Dec 25 WTE Var	Dec 25 Limit Var %
Health & Social Care Professionals	17,359	-554	-3.2%

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

---

Mairéad Ryan  
National HR