



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care  
South East Community Healthcare  
HSE Offices, Lacken  
Dublin Road  
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Mr. David Cullinane TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 43144/21**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies that currently exist in CHO 5 across psychiatry, psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, counselling and psychotherapy and mental health nursing by job title in tabular form; the number of positions across these disciplines that are currently fulfilled by locum or agency staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

*I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.*

CHO 5	Carlow/Kilkenny	South Tipperary	Waterford	Wexford
No. of vacancies in psychology	4.8 WTE	10.1 WTE	4 WTE	2 WTE
No. of vacancies in psychology currently filled by locum or agency staff	0 WTE	5 WTE	0.6 WTE	0 WTE
No. of vacancies in speech & language therapy (SLT)	5 WTE	2.5 WTE	1 WTE	3.5 WTE
No. of vacancies in speech & language therapy currently filled by locum or agency staff	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE	1 WTE
No. of vacancies in occupational therapy (OT)	6 WTE	3.5 WTE	6 WTE	1 WTE
No. of vacancies in OT currently filled by locum or agency staff	0 WTE	0 WTE	2 WTE	1 WTE
Children Disability Network Team Nurse (0-18)	0 WTE	1 WTE	1 WTE	0 WTE

<b>No. of vacancies (permanent) in Consultants psychiatry</b>	2 WTE	3 WTE	4.5 WTE	5 WTE
<b>No. of vacancies Consultants in psychiatry currently filled by locum or agency staff</b>	2 WTE	3 WTE	4.5 WTE	3.6 WTE
<b>No. of vacancies in mental health nursing</b>	22.8 WTE	21 WTE	11 WTE	27 WTE
<b>No. of vacancies in mental health nursing currently filled by locum or agency staff</b>	22.8 WTE	21 WTE	11 WTE	27 WTE
<b>NCHDS</b>	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE	2 WTE
<b>NCHDs covered by Agency</b>	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE
<b>Social Work vacancy</b>	3 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE
<b>Social Work vacancy covered by Agency</b>	3 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE
<b>No. of vacancies in counselling or psychotherapy</b>	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE	0 WTE

The staffing environment of the HSE is subject to significant service demands. When a position is vacated, work may be covered through a variety of measures such as redeployment, restructuring or reallocation of work. In addition, where a post has been approved for filling the duties may be covered by agency or overtime in the meantime.

Vacancies for therapy services are changing frequently given current developments in Primary Care with the Community Healthcare Networks and the reconfiguration of the Children's Disability Network teams which are planned to go live shortly.

South East Community Healthcare continues to fill approved posts in line with HSE Recruitment and National Pay-bill Management Framework. Recruitment is ongoing to fill vacancies to ensure continuity of services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Bridget Farrell**  
**A/Head of Service-Primary Care**  
**South East Community Healthcare**

c.c. **Mr. David Heffernan, Head of Mental Health Services, South East Community Healthcare**  
**Ms Anne Ennis, Head of Disability Services, South East Community Healthcare**