



20th December 2023

Deputy Joan Collins
 Dáil Éireann,
 Leinster House,
 Kildare Street,
 Dublin 2.

PQ 53980/23 To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth how many speech and language therapists are currently working in each health district of Dublin city and county; how many positions are currently vacant; and how current numbers compare to each of the past ten years.

Dear Deputy Collins,

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

The information you require is not available in the format requested. However, please see the number of Speech & Language Therapist for CHO's 6, 7 and 9 for the past ten years in the table below:

CHO	Oct 2013	Oct 2014	Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017	Oct 2018	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Oct 2021	Oct 2022	Oct 2023
CHO6	65	65	65	71	65	75	75	70	62	57	64
CHO7	76	92	88	100	120	126	126	120	114	127	113
CHO9	86	104	110	127	134	141	128	143	135	157	134

In relation to your request seeking the number of Speech & Language Therapist vacancies, there is no accepted definition of what a vacancy actually is. Data in relation to vacancies that are approved for replacement include New Development posts, retirements and resignations. However there can be other reasons posts are not filled (for example where there is long term sick leave, maternity leave, blocks of parental leave etc.), which may not be possible to gain budgetary approval to replace, although there may be a person assigned to such 'vacancies'/posts that are crucial to service delivery. However they are not an approved vacancy.

Because of the complexity of it, it is not possible to hold accurate data at a national level or give a definitive figure for vacancies as this information is not routinely collected in the manner sought.

All our employment data is available on the HSE Personnel Census, [here](#).

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline Nix

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Assistant National Director, HR Community Operations