



**Stiúthóra Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director
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Carol Nolan , T.D.

13th May 2024

PQ 20205/24: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of vacancies within the HSE for speech & language therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Carol Nolan

Dear Deputy,

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

The HSE has been through a period of significant workforce growth since end 2019. Successful recruitment campaigns in a number of disciplines have also meant that in many cases funded 2023 targets were reached and indeed exceeded ahead of year end. The unprecedented levels of additional Government investment in our health services in recent years that has enabled significant expansion in our workforce by +26172 equating to a 22% increase overall since December 2019, with a 8239 net increase in 2023 against a funded target of 6,100 net increase.

The HSE is currently finalising the 2024 Pay and Numbers Strategy with the Department of Health. Once finalised and advised to services, will underpin the clear requirement to have a robust approach to managing our pay and numbers along with autonomy for Regions and National Services to operate within same

To advise the Deputy that there continues to be a significant requirement for Health and Social Care Professions in order to maintain existing levels of service in addition to service developments as provided for in the National Service Plan 2024. Key requirements in 2024 include disability services and mental health services.

Therefore, to ensure that the HSE can meet staffing requirements including that created by staff turnover Health and Social Care Profession, graduates from Irish colleges for 2024 are being offered permanent contracts of employment. The HSE is offering each of the graduate HSCPs in 2024, a permanent contract. This includes the following:

- Dietitian
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Chiropodist / Podiatrist
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Social Workers
- Medical Scientist
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiographer's
- Clinical Measurement
- Audiology

The majority of HSCP staff grade positions will be filled from national/regional panels managed by the National Recruitment Service (NRS) or through local campaigns managed through the CHOs and Hospital groups. All positions are advertised on the HSE website

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Marie O'Sullivan
National HR**