

## THE STATUS OF THE PROFESSION OF A SPEECH THERAPIST IN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE

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*Завдання та обов'язки логопедів, а також умови їх роботи (години роботи, заробітна плата, компетенція) залежать від статусу цієї професії, типу закладу, в якому вони працюють, і положень, що зазначені у договорі з його / її роботодавцем. Таким чином, важко вказати відмінності в змісті роботи та оплаті праці логопедів лише на основі положень, передбачених Департаментом освіти і Департаментом охорони здоров'я.*

The profession of a speech therapist is described with the use of different terms in individual languages, e.g. in English as a *Speech and Language Therapist* – SLT; in French as an *orthophoniste*.

In general, materials from the Bureau of Research were used in the project is:

- Bublewicz, B. (2013). *Informacje na temat statusu zawodu logopedy w Wielkiej Brytanii, Francji, Szwecji, Norwegii oraz w Czechach*. Biuro Analiz Sejmowych. Opracowanie zostało przygotowane w oparciu o informacje zawarte na serwerze Stałego Komitetu Łącznikowego Logopedów Unii Europejskiej-CPLOL-Comite' Permanent de Liaison des Orthophonistes/ Logop e'des de l'Union Europeenne (<http://www.cplol.org>).
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In Great Britain and France a speech therapist is a paramedical regulated profession. In these countries there is no division into teachers-speech therapists employed by the Department of Health Service, and speech therapists employed on different conditions by the Department of Health Education, although SLTs work both in health service institutions, and education and social care institutions (also in prisons). The tasks and obligations of speech therapists, as well as their work conditions (hours of work, salary, competences) depend on the status of this profession, the type of institution in which they work, and terms specified in a contract between an SLT and his/her employer. Thus, it is not possible to indicate the differences in the employment and remuneration of speech therapists on the basis of articles specified by the Department of Education and the Department of Health Service.

Below you can find information about the status of the profession of a speech therapist in Great Britain and France.

### **GREAT BRITAIN**

The tasks of SLTs include [1]:

- the diagnosis of developmental speech defects and difficulties in communication;
- the assessment and carrying out therapy for persons with problems in swallowing and communicating which result from various causes (birth defects such as pataloschisis, or acquired defects, e.g. after a stroke)
- developing, conducting, and revising appropriate therapeutic programmes;
- counselling for carers and training other specialists (e.g. teachers) in speech therapy;
- assessment of the communication environment of the client;
- monitoring and assessment of client's progress;
- individual work and group work;
- keeping the documentation of the client and securing its confidentiality; this includes notes and information for the client, carer, and other specialists;
- work time management, taking into consideration priority matters, the queue of patients, successes in therapy, referring to other specialists, and taking care of the matters of service users;
- cooperation with other interested persons in order to increase the effectiveness of the therapy.

The tasks of speech therapists in senior positions include [1]:

- review of personal professional development in a group of colleagues;
- support and supervision of the work of younger colleagues and speech therapist assistants;
- determination of organisational and personal goals;
- planning and conducting of therapeutic sessions;
- research into the effectiveness of provided services through the comparison of statistical data, financial data, etc.

The majority of 10 000 speech therapists (over 90 % are women) in Great Britain is employed by NHS (National Health Service). As a rule, local education authorities and individual schools contract speech therapists from NHS to conduct programmes with the number of lessons specified in hours. As an exception the education authorities and individual schools use the services of SLTs who work in charities, or the services of private companies which provide speech therapy services and have signed contracts with NHS.

A speech therapist who works full time for NHS works 37,5 hours a week (with a possibility of some additional hours as needed), usually in several places (health care centre, hospital, school, institutional care), and has to be prepared for a few local trips weekly (daily). Typical working time is 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. [1].

The remuneration of a novice speech therapist employed in NHS is about £21 200 a year. Within a short space of time this amount can increase up to £25 500–£34 189. Other employers, such as public benefit institutions in senior positions earn £36 552–£46 374, and in positions with significant managerial duties they can earn the amount of £55 000–£58 000 (MPs' salary is £65 738. Cf. Members' pay, pensions and allowances, Factsheet M5, Members Series, Revised July 2011) [1].

Work in the profession of a speech therapist requires the completion of 3–4 years of study at a basic level. Persons educated in fields related to speech therapy can obtain the diploma of a speech therapist after the completion of 2-year postgraduate studies [2]. Only the completion of studies according to the curricula approved by *Health Professions Councils* entitles to perform the profession of a speech therapist and speech and language therapist.

### **FRANCE**

The tasks of SLTs include:

- initial assessment of the problem with articulation and expression;
- determination of a speech therapy programme;
- conducting speech therapy;
- keeping the documentation of the client and securing the confidentiality of medical data.

Speech therapists work under the supervision of specialists: phoniatrists or otolaryngologists. The work of an SLT not closely connected with school. There is even a discussion whether, in view of the articles which regulate this profession, they can perform their tasks in school, especially as lessons [3].

About 15 000 SLTs are in practice in France (over 96 % are women) About 80 % SLTs are self-employed, about 20 % are employed in various health care structures, especially in social and medical services, such as *SESSAD (Service d'Éducation Spéciale et de Soins à Domicile)* or *SSEFIS (Service de Soutien à l'Éducation Familiale et à l'Intégration Scolaire)* (SSEFIS looks after hearing-impaired children) [4].

The standards of work of speech therapists employed in public health service are specified by the articles concerning public health service, while the standards of work of self-employed speech therapists are regulated by the provisions of the conventions between the associations of speech therapists and health insurance funds (Caisses D'assurance Maladie) [4].

After four years of practice in public health service, a speech therapist can within a year prepare a diploma of a health service manager (diplôme de cadre de santé), and after another three years of practice take part in a competition to obtain the title of a speech therapist senior health service manager (orthophoniste cadre supérieur de santé), which allows to assume senior managerial positions in health service [5].

In public health service the monthly salary of a speech therapist depends on the position and qualifications [6]:

Position	Initial salary (Euro)	Final salary (Euro)
Speech therapist	1411	2178
Specialist in speech therapy	1868	2414

Speech therapist health manager	1799	2824
Speech therapist senior health manager	2507	3031

The remuneration of self-employed speech therapists who work full-time reaches the amount of 20 500 Euro a year [6]. On average, a speech therapist works 51 hours a week [7]. Their services are priced as per the price list of the professional association of speech therapists, from 28,8 Euro for an hour of speech therapy consultation up to 72,00 Euro for an hour of specialist therapy [7].



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*Summarizes the information about the status of the profession of a speech therapist in Great Britain and France.*

*Узагальнена інформація про стан професії логопеда у Великобританії та Франції.*

*Обобщена информация о состоянии профессии логопеда в Великобритании и Франции.*

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