Catherine Connolly, T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

8th February 2018

PQ 54962/17
‘To ask the Minister for Health the days and hours on which the early intervention team and the school age teams use a building (HSE building known as Scoil na gCaillini, An Spiddal, Co Galway); the number of children involved in each programme; the staff complement for each of the programmes; the nature of the services provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.’

Dear Deputy Connolly,

I refer to PQ 54962/17 uploaded on the PAD System on 11th January 2018, addressed to the Minister for Health and due for response on 26th January 2018 regarding ‘the days and hours on which the early intervention team and the school age teams use a building (HSE building known as Scoil na gCaillini, An Spiddal, Co Galway); the number of children involved in each programme; the staff complement for each of the programmes; the nature of the services provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.’ Please be advised that the HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. I wish to apologise in the first instance for the late response to PQ 54962/17. The following response outlines the position.

I wish to advise you that I have made enquiries with the local manager of the service and she has informed me of the following:

**Springtime Early Intervention Service – Galway West Team, Spiddal:**

The Springtime Early Intervention Service provides multidisciplinary therapy services to children from birth to six years with complex disabilities throughout Galway city and county. The Galway West Team based in Spiddal (Scoil na gCaillini) covers the entire west of the county from Barna to Renvyle, Leenane, Clonbur, including the Aran Islands.
Please be advised that currently the Springtime Early Intervention Team carries a caseload of 54 children, all requiring inputs from a number of therapists. There is 9 Early Intervention Service staff working from the Spiddal base and includes the following disciplines:

- Speech & Language Therapy
- Psychology
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Community Nursing
- Preschool Liaison Support
- Social Work
- Community Paediatrics
- Administrative Support

Services provided by the Springtime Early Intervention Team are delivered from this building 5 days per week, Monday to Friday. Clinical sessions are normally delivered through the core hours of 8.30am – 6.00pm. However training groups for parents are also held outside these hours (usually 6.30 – 9.00pm) in order to facilitate parents of children on the team’s caseload who work outside the home. These groups include: Parents Plus, Communication Groups- More than Words & Early Bird, Sensory Groups, Toiletting Workshops and SENO (Special Education Needs Officer) presentations as part of school preparation programme. Please be advised that the days / evenings on which these groups are held are scheduled to facilitate maximum parental attendance. In addition, I wish to inform you that the Springtime Early Intervention Service also provides training to Preschool Staff which takes place in the evenings.

**Springtime School Age Service - Galway West Team, Spiddal:**

The Springtime Children’s School Age Service Team will provide multidisciplinary therapy services to children from 6 – 18 years of age with complex disabilities who reside in Galway. Currently this service is in the process of reconfiguring and the agreed location for Galway West is Scoil na gCailiní, Spiddal as this will allow the Early Intervention and School Age Service co-locate. The geographical area covered will be Barna to Renvyle, Leenane, Clonbur, including the Aran Islands. The current number of children on the school age database (6-18 yrs) who will be attending the service located in Spiddal upon reconfiguration is 109.

Furthermore I wish to inform you that the service will be delivered from the building five days a week, Monday to Friday. Clinical sessions will be delivered between the core hours of 8am – 6pm. However, parental training sessions will be held in the evenings (to accommodate families). The team will consist of 9 staff made up of the following disciplines:

- Occupational Therapists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Behavioural Support Workers
- Administrative Support

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.
Yours sincerely,

John Fitzmaurice,
General Manager,
Social Care Division,
CHO 2.