



13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Ms. Ruth Coppinger, T.D.  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Email: [ruth.coppinger@oireachtas.ie](mailto:ruth.coppinger@oireachtas.ie)

Re: 24376 PQ 50273/19

**\*To ask the Minister for Health if an increase in occupational therapy services will be provided for school age children attending a school (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**DETAILS: the Daughters of Charity Service on the Navan Road. This arises from a constituent with a 12 year old child with autism, dyspraxia and hypermobility waiting over 4.5 years for OT. Constituent was informed there was no OT or social worker at the "Oaklands" Daughters of Charity Service on the Navan Road**

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Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

With reference to "Oaklands" Daughters of Charity Service I wish to advise this service is known as "Oakridge Children's Services" I also wish to advise the Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services (DOCDSS) have no record of a child awaiting Occupational Therapy Services for four and a half years. If you wish to provide the details of the constituent I can examine this case and provide you with a further response.

The DOCDSS has recently successfully recruited two Occupational Therapists to the School Age Disability Team who have commenced in post. Currently, there is a 0.5 whole time equivalent Occupational Therapist vacancy and interviews for the recruitment of this post will commence in the coming weeks. It is envisaged that by the end of January 2020, the Daughters of Charity will have a full complement of Occupational Therapists on the School Age Disability Team.

A recruitment campaign for a Social Worker has also been undertaken by the DOCDSS and the successful candidate has been offered the post. The DOCDSS are in the process of confirming a start date with the candidate.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

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**Mairead Lyons**  
Head of Service - Social Care