

Community Healthcare West serving Galway, Mayo and Rosconimon

18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Eamon O'Cuiv, TD Dail Eireann, Kildare St, Dublin 2 Ceannasaí um Chúram Sláinte

An Sean Ionad Sláinte, Sráid an Bhiocáire, Tuaim, Co. na Gaillimhe

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## Re: PQ 52294/19.

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with an intellectual disability on the school age psychology caseload in the Galway region; the number of psychologists available to provide this service; the number of children on the waiting list for a service in the Galway region; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy O'Cuiv

I refer to PQ 52294/19 uploaded on the PAD System on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and due for response on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health concerning "the number of children with an intellectual disability on the School Age Psychology caseload in the Galway region; the number of psychologists available to provide this service; the number of children on the waiting list for a service in the Galway region; and if he will make a statement on the matter". The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

I wish to advise the psychology services for School Age Children with an intellectual disability in Galway City and County are provided by two Voluntary Agencies, the Brothers of Charity Galway and Ability West, on behalf of HSE Community Healthcare West.

I can confirm that Ability West have a waiting list of 35 children for psychology input and currently there are 39 children receiving psychology supports within the service giving a total caseload of 74 children. The allocation of psychology resources to children in the service is 3.5 days per week with 0.65 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff.

The Brothers of Charity Galway have confirmed that there are 464 children with an intellectual disability on the School Age psychology caseload with 170 children on the waiting list for psychology input. The compliment of Psychologists for School Age children in the Brothers of Charity Galway is 3.4 WTE staff.

HSE Community Healthcare West acknowledges the difficulties experienced by children and their families and continues to address the situation within the resources allocated to the service.

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

Yours sincerely,

John Fitzmaurice,
General Manager,
Community Healthcare West.