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FnaSS  
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Muineachán

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24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Deputy Charlie McConalogue  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 20864/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the position in relation to an autism therapist for Inishowen, County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McConalogue

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 can confirm that the vacant Autism Therapist post in Disability Services, County Donegal has been approved for replacement and the recruitment process is currently underway.

The Autism Service in Donegal provides a holistic person-centred service to children with autism spectrum disorder aged between 6 - 18 years and their families. The role of the autism therapist has a clinical focus primarily, comprising of assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of treatment plans. This role is carried out in consultation with members of the multi-disciplinary teams, and the service is provided to each child and their families to enable them to develop their full potential. The autism therapist is responsible for transition planning and case reviews, as well as participating in clinical and educational case meetings. The autism service also provides training to parents and professionals (i.e. Early Bird and Early Bird Plus programmes); and to family support assistants in the provision of services.

I hope that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Una Tomany  
Acting General Manager, Disability Services CHO 1  
Bainisteoir Ginearálta, Seirbhísí Michumais ESP 1