



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Social Care
South East Community Healthcare
c/o Community Care Headquarters
James' Green

Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784600
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28th November, 2019

Ms. Mary Butler T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 47424/19 -

To ask the Minister for Health when the position for clinical psychologist and social worker will be filled for St. Martins Special School in County Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 47425/19

To ask the Minister for Health if an organization will continue to provide services for children at St. Martin's Special School in County Waterford; and if not, the person or body that will be providing the service if this discontinues; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 47426/19

To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to employing a second full-time nurse for St. Martins Special School in County Waterford and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Butler

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

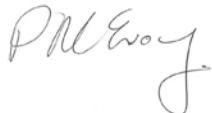
I have reviewed the matter and the following composite reply is the current position.

The HSE recognises that St. Martins Special School provides valuable education for pupils with special education needs arising from moderate, severe and profound general learning disabilities and those diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. There have been significant year on year increases in the number of children applying for assessment, interventions and all disability services which has led to delays in timeframes. There are a number of vacancies within the Psychology Services and the HSE are endeavoring to fill these as soon as possible. The local HSE disability team has submitted all relevant paperwork to fill the vacancies for both Psychology and Social Worker posts and are currently in the HSE recruitment process.

St. Martin's school has submitted a business case to the HSE to increase the current hours provided to them by the agency nurse to the school. The disability service is not a demand led service and must operate within the annual finite budget allocation for 2019 and not beyond this limit. However the local disability team is convening a meeting with the school principal to complete the business case to include full costings for these additional services to meet the current needs of the pupils attending their school. Upon completion of this process the business case will be escalated for inclusion in the 2020 estimates.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'PMcEvoy', written in black ink.

Patricia McEvoy
General Manager, Disability Service-South East Community Healthcare