



21st October 2019

Ms. Denise Mitchell, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Email: denise.mitchell@oireachtas.ie

Re: 23684 PQ 38602/19

***To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the lack of early intervention therapy services in Coolock primary care centre (details supplied; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Details supplied: In view of the fact that two of the occupational therapists have taken maternity leave and as a direct result, the junior therapist has been made redundant

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.

I wish to advise CHO Dublin North City and County Social Care acknowledges the challenges regarding the limited Occupational Therapy Service currently available in the Early Intervention Team services in the Coolock Area.

There are currently two whole time equivalent Occupational Therapists on maternity leave. CHO Dublin North City and County is required to operate within our allocated budget and unfortunately, CHO DNCC does not have the funding required to provide maternity leave locum replacements.

The contract of a temporary Occupational Therapist in the Coolock Early Intervention Team services, expired at the end of September 2019. In line with the control measures currently in place all replacement posts require National Director approval before the recruitment process can commence. An application for derogation will be made in respect of this post.

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,

Olive Hanley
A/Head of Service - Social Care