



Príomhoifigeach CHO Ceantar 8
Oifig an Cheantair
Páirc Ghnó Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia
Sráid Hale
Baile Átha Fhirdhia
Contae Lú

Chief Officer CHO8 Area
Area Office
Ardee Business Park
Hale Street
Ardee
Co Louth

PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8

t: 041 6871500

t: 041 6871500

28th January 2021

Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ - 39961/20 - Is there a clinical psychologist currently working at Mounthamilton House, Dundalk, Co.Louth; the current average waiting time for psychological assessment at the centre; his plans to put additional personnel in place – Ruairí Ó Murchú

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response and apologise for the delay. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

HSE MLM Louth Disability Services can confirm that there is currently one senior Clinical Psychologist and one staff grade Clinical Psychologist based at Mounthamilton House, Dundalk, Co.Louth since quarter four 2020. Both posts were vacant for a period of time in 2020 due to resignation and unplanned leave.

There is currently a recruitment drive for a further two Clinical psychologists, a Senior Clinical and basic grade Clinical Psychologist.

The average waiting time for psychological assessment at Mounthamilton House is as follows:

North Louth ASD = 25.3 months

North Louth EIT Preschool Assessments = 15.25 months

North Louth Cognitive Assessment = 27.42 months

North Louth Assessment for Intervention/Formulation = 19.9 months

North Louth Priority assessment = 2 months

The team in Mounthamilton House are actively working to address the waitlist. Given the individuality of each child, the time that will be required to conduct the assessment, additional home visits, parent interviews, or school visits that may be deemed necessary, all will be impacted by the complexities of the child's presentation and compounded by the current COVID 19 level 5 status. HSE MLM expect that psychological assessments will be completed as soon as possible.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah McBride".

Sarah McBride
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation