

4<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

Ms. Sorca Clarke T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 6890/20**

To ask the Minister for Health the reason a temporary physiotherapist from a health centre (details supplied) was laid off in view of the backlog of work; and when they will be replaced - Sorca Clarke.

(Details) St. Josephs Health Centre, Co. Longford

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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 outline the position as follows.

I have consulted relevant colleagues and can confirm that currently there is only one vacancy within the Physiotherapy Department in St Joseph's Campus. This post was recently filled with a start date of the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 on a Specified Purpose Contract until April 2021 when the permanent post holder returns. All other staff are in post in all of the Specialties.

Due to the HSE prioritising our resources in order to respond to COVID and in order to ensure compliance with government direction during this period, only the most urgent cases could be addressed. As you are aware health services will be resuming in line with government policy and we will be able to increase our throughput once services resume.

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,



Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer CHO Area 8