



24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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Galway

Head of Primary Care Services  
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**PQ 36645/20**

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE in the CHO2 community care area has made a decision not to provide further occupational therapy reports in support of applications for housing grants, such as, mobility aids grant and housing adaption grants for persons with a disability to Galway county and city councils in view of the extra cost burden this will put on vulnerable persons; his plans to issue an instruction to reverse this decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó'Cuív,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Community Occupational Therapy Services in Galway suspended their role in compiling housing reports for grants issued by Galway City and Council due to the level of staffing redeployed to COVID-19 testing and tracing in April 2020. The councils over the last 12 months have revised their criteria for these grants and now require an Occupational Therapy report to accompany all mobility aid and housing grant application.

The HSE Occupational Therapy services do not have the capacity to meet this new demand and will be arranging a meeting with Galway City Council and Galway County Council to discuss. Other council areas have funded Occupational Therapy posts in house to meet this need.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Murphy  
Head of Primary Care  
Community Healthcare West