



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais,
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Service, Disabilities
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28 October 2020

Patricia Ryan, TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 30327/20

“To ask the Minister for Health if occupational therapist in County Kildare have been reassigned to contact tracing; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- **Patricia Ryan**

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Only one OT is reserve contact tracing and gets called up as required in relation to residential settings when they need contact tracing followed up. A number of Occupational Therapists have been assigned to swabbing for Covid and also a number redeployed to the Assessment of Needs Project.

The Head of Service for Disabilities Services in Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare, approved funding to backfill for the posts that have been redeployed into the statutory Assessment of Need process on an interim basis.

The recruitment process to backfill the OT positions are currently taking place. An OT post has already been filled in the South Kildare Children’s Network Team. It is intended that the backfilling of these posts will help address the priority needs of children attending this service.

I trust the above information is of use to you and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Jacob
Head of Service for Disabilities,
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare