



Cúram Sláinte  
Phobail, Iarthar  
ag freastal ar Ghailímh,  
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

Community  
Healthcare West  
serving Galway, Mayo  
and Roscommon

Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim  
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7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Deputy Denis Naughten  
Unit 3 Golf Links Road  
Roscommon  
Co. Roscommon  
F42 YX65

**PQ 47746/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to address waiting times for paediatric occupational therapy appointments in counties Roscommon and Galway; if all occupational therapists are working in occupational therapy roles; the plan to recruit additional occupational therapists; the plan to recruit additional occupational therapists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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.

I can confirm that all Occupational Therapists in Galway and Roscommon are working in Occupational Therapy posts.

At present in Roscommon, there are four vacancies in paediatric occupational therapy with recruitment underway. Two candidates have accepted posts and are being processed by the national recruitment service. One post is with national recruitment waiting to be offered to the panel. The final post is awaiting the formation of the national panel for staff grade occupational therapists which is anticipated to go live in November, as it was not filled from the existing staff grade panel. Once recruitment of staff is complete, waiting lists will be addressed.

Agency staff are currently in place providing cover while we await the filling of the posts outlined above.

In Galway, additional posts have been allocated to the service under the Enhanced Community Care Programme 2021, which will focus on addressing waiting lists. Telehealth services will also be available as appropriate which will also assist in reducing the waiting times.

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

Yours sincerely,

*M. Michelle Egan*

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**Mary Warde**  
**Head of Primary Care**  
**Galway, Mayo and Roscommon**