



8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald  
 Dáil Éireann  
 Leinster House  
 Kildare Street  
 Dublin 2

**Re PQ 46074/21:**

*“To ask the Minister for Health if he will urgently address the need for provision of school based clinical supports for students attending a school (details supplied) in County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Mary Lou McDonald*

*Details supplied: Carmona School, 111 Upper Glenageary Road Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin*

Dear Deputy McDonald,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The HSE has not removed school-based clinical supports for children attending Carmona School, 111 Upper Glenageary Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The HSE has carried out all requests and directions made by Minister Rabbitte, her department and the HSE Disability National Office.

Community Healthcare East (CH East) Disability Service have always acted in good faith and in an open and transparent manner with the information received from the current service provider (SJOG) and in communication with parents.

There has always been a historical disparity to the allocation of resources to the special schools hence PDS is the most equitable model to meet a child and family’s needs for the future.

The HSE acknowledge that the children who attend Carmona School have complex needs and since the reconfiguration in to Children’s Disability Network Team’s (CDNT) on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, the CDNT’s are in attendance at Carmona School as per the existing allocation outlined by Minister Rabbitte.

The pre-covid allocation levels based on the information given by SJOG in April ’21 is outlined in the table below.

CARMONA SPECIAL NATIONAL SCHOOL			Pre-Covid	CDNT 3 from 13 <sup>th</sup> September ‘21
	OT	Basic	0.4	0.4
	PT	Senior	0.38	0.38
	SLT	Basic	0.2	0.2

Following the welcomed approval to back fill the special school resource, the new lead agency (Enable Ireland) under Progressing Disabilities (PDS) is actively recruiting to fill these vacancies.

In the meantime the CDNT is continuing to provide this level of therapy service to the school from the 13<sup>th</sup> September within the existing CDNT resources.

In order, to ensure that safe and appropriate service will continue to be provided under the PDS model of service delivery, over the course of the next week these staff are undertaking the following due diligence exercise under the direction of the Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM) in respect of the children who attend Carmona School.

1. Review the transfer reports to identify if any of the following need to be scheduled for the children
  - Clinic Appointments dates/times
  - FEDS reviews
  - Physical assessment
  - Equipment
  - Orthotics
2. Ascertain the needs of the children and resources required from the CDNT going forward which the above information will assist in this analysis.
3. Secure additional therapy resource for CDNT 3 to support all the children aligned to CDNT including Carmona School.


From the 20<sup>th</sup> September, to complete this piece of work in a timely manner, the CDNM has increased the clinical resource in addition to the original allocation on a temporary basis from the existing CDNT 3 compliment of staff.

As part of the transfer of services the CDNM has had a several meetings with the Principal of the school and an Action Plan was developed in consultation with the Principal for implementation from the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

To ensure parents are fully and accurately informed of this plan and all the services provided by the CDNT to support their children, the CEO of the Lead Agency, HSE Chief Officer, Disability Head of Service and the CDNM will be scheduling a meeting with children's' families separately to the meetings with the School Principal in the coming weeks.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



**Anna Meegan**  
**General Manager, Disability Services**