



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,  
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Ceanannais  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re PQ 20857/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on (Occupational Therapist (paediatric) staff in the HSE Primary Care Centre, Barrack St, Dundalk, Co Louth); the current waiting times for appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Ruairí Ó Murchú**

Dear Deputy O'Murchú,

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 outlined the position as follows.

Currently we have no Occupational Therapists in our Paediatric service with four vacant posts to be recruited and one maternity leave vacancy. Pending the fulltime filling of these posts we have endeavoured to fill the vacant posts via agency without success. In conjunction with three other CHO's we are progressing a recruitment competition to fill our existing senior vacancies. However it will be late autumn when we would expect appointments to be made and this is dependent in us being successful in attracting candidates.

Regrettably we have a large volume and very lengthy waiting list i.e. currently there are 659 children on the waiting list for primary care occupational therapy paediatric assessment in Louth, with 382 waiting in excess of one year, and the average waiting time is that of circa three years.

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,

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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation