



Oifig um Cheannasaí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483722

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
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16th December 2022

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare St., Dublin 2

Re.: PQ 60328/22 - "To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant positions in the West Clare Primary Care Team; the length of time they have been advertised for, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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

I am outlining hereunder the current vacancies which exist across Community Healthcare Network (CHN1) which covers West Clare, North Clare, Ennis town and surrounding areas. Please note that every CHN is made up of a number of Primary Care Teams. CHN1 is made up of seven PCTs, one of which covers the West Clare area (Kilrush/Kilkee). Please note that posts can be vacant for a number of reasons including difficulties in the recruitment/retention of staff and also staff on various leave types e.g. maternity leave, parental leave, sick leave etc.

As outlined in PQ 60327/22, I can advise that each Primary Care Team is made up of staff who provide the following core Primary Care Services which include the following:

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Social Work
- Podiatry
- Dietetics
- Public Health Nursing

At present, the following vacancies exist across Primary Care Teams within CHN1:

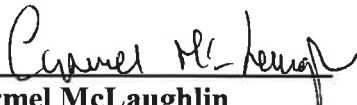
Primary Care Service	Wholetime Equivalents (WTEs) vacant within CHN1	Length of time posts are vacant	Length of time vacancies have been advertised for:
Occupational Therapy	1.1 (0.6 parental leave)		Local arrangement in place to cover vacancy
Speech & Language Therapy	0.8	12 months	Vacancy will be filled by February 2023.
Physiotherapy	1		New therapist starting 03/01/2023
Social Work	1	1 year	Recruitment difficulties experienced due to ongoing Industrial Relations issues

All of the Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) in CHO3 have a Network Manager in place except Networks 1 and 2. I can advise that there is an ongoing recruitment process underway to recruit a Network Manager for CHN1.

I can advise that each of the CHNs consists of administrative support staff and the majority of these staff provide administrative support to the Primary Care Teams within each Network. Each Network Manager has dedicated administrative support (1 x Staff Officer and 1 x Clerical Officer) who provide administrative support directly to the CHN Manager.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,


Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care