



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
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Kilkenny

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28th January 2022

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 4087/22

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the lack of available occupational therapists across the country and in particular in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; and if he will provide further information on accessing support to enable persons to access these services and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Funchion,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.

Referrals to the Occupational Therapy Service in Carlow/Kilkenny and other areas of the South East are prioritised based on the service prioritisation system using categories such as urgent, semi-urgent and routine. Referrals deemed as Priority 1 are prioritised and receive an appointment as soon as possible whilst for Priority 2 referrals are seen in the order in which they are received.

Occupational Therapy staffing levels in Primary Care are increasing in line with National Care Programmes which in turn will reduce waiting times for clients in Carlow and Kilkenny in 2022.

Please be assured that Management from South East Community Healthcare Area and personnel from the Occupational Therapy service monitor the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare