



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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5<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Deputy Emer Higgins  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 14669/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to difficulties in accessing speech and language therapy and occupational therapy in CHO area 7; and the actions his Department is undertaking to improve resourcing of these therapies in CHO7. -Emer Higgins**

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Dear Deputy Higgins,

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.

The HSE is acutely aware of the protracted wait times for access to Occupational Therapy (OT) services and Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) services in Primary Care, Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare area. Wait times have grown since early 2020, as a result of redeployment of clinical resources to Covid-19 testing and other functions, in line with the HSE response to a nationally identified priority. For some time now all such clinicians have returned to the substantive roles and have been working very hard to manage their wait lists.

Currently recruitment is ongoing for a total of 11 Senior SLT posts, 14 Senior OT posts and 14 Assistant OT posts, for the Primary Care Enhanced Community Care (ECC) Network model of service delivery. When in place, it is anticipated that these new resources will have a significant effect on wait times, and will provide access to service users in a timely manner, local to home.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Gillian Farrelly**  
**Interim Head of Service, Primary Care**  
**Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare**