

Corporate Affairs Department

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5th April 2022

Deputy David Cullinane

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 15520/22 - *To ask the Minister for Health the status of funding for a senior occupational therapist in the long Covid clinic at St. James's Hospital; if there will be a reduction in such posts in 2022 on 2021 levels at this site; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

There is currently one senior occupational therapist providing assessment and interventions in the Covid Clinic in St James's Hospital. This position is temporarily funded until year end.

The hospital has recently received confirmation from the HSE of some permanent funding for its Covid service and plans to prioritise the appointment of one senior occupational therapist as part of the Covid Clinic team from this funding allocation. Recruitment for this new role is now underway and it is expected that the appointee will commence in June 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Noel Gorman

Chief Operations Officer