

Mr Brendan Smith T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

**Re: PQ ref 25651/22 - CDNT Therapy Services Recruitment - DSPQ22022**

Details

*Unacceptable delays in children receiving appropriate supports from Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists and Social Workers in Cavan/Monaghan*

*“To ask the Minister for Health when additional healthcare professionals, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists and Social Workers in Cavan Monaghan, will be recruited, in view of long delays in children receiving appropriate therapeutic-interventions and supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Brendan Smith*

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to your recent correspondence received in my office in relation to the recruitment of additional healthcare professionals, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists and Social Workers in Cavan Monaghan. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that there are a total of 18.4 Whole Time Equivalent vacant healthcare professional therapy and social work posts vacant in the two Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in Cavan and Monaghan. The HSE CHO1 is the lead agency for the Monaghan CDNT and Enable Ireland is the lead agency for the Cavan CDNT. Every effort is being made to fill all vacant positions both permanent and temporary. Temporary vacancies arise where the substantive post holder is on statutory leave such as maternity leave.

Recruitment is ongoing to fill the vacant positions through the HSE’s National Recruitment Service which has national panels in place, CHO1 HR recruitment which has panels in place, Enable Ireland recruitment and through recruitment agencies. Repeat recruitment attempts have been made for posts, however, recruitment and retention of staff remains a national problem which is reflected in the Cavan/Monaghan area. The supply of health professionals is being addressed by national HSE with other relevant departments.



CHO1 is progressing in the interim a number of waitlist initiatives between Primary Care and Disability Services to address waiting times for children requiring occupational therapy and physiotherapy in the Cavan/Monaghan area and to support children's access to ASD diagnostic assessments across the CHO1 area – Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan and Sligo. I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Quinn'.

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**Edel Quinn**  
**Head of Service Disability CHO1**  
**Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas**  
**Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1**