



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
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8th September, 2022

Ms. Carol Nolan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 42930/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults awaiting audiology appointments in counties Laois and Offaly; the length of time they have been waiting; the steps that are being taken by his Department to address the waiting lists for adult audiology services in counties Laois and Offaly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Carol Nolan

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

The current number of adult clients waiting on an appointment with the Audiology service in Laois Offaly is 309. The longest wait time is 115 weeks.

Over the past 10 years there have been unfilled Audiologists positions in the Midlands; this created long waiting lists. In January 2021 we finally filled all vacant positions in Midlands Audiology.

We currently have 3.5 WTE Audiologists for the Midlands region. Since then our adult wait times have improved from 163 weeks to 115 weeks. As time goes on we aim to further improve the wait times as the full staff compliment tackles the longest waiting clients. One Audiologist in the Midlands Audiology Service is currently on maternity leave, this means a decrease in clinics across the region. Approval was granted to back fill the maternity and offered out to the national Snr Audiologist panel, no one expressed an interest in the post.

We have tried to employ Audiologists via locum agencies and sessional staff but unfortunately no suitable candidates could be found to take the post. The Audiologist is due back from leave at the end of November and will bolster the number of clinics across the Midlands region when they return.



I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation