

22nd September 2022

Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 44288/22- To ask the Minister for Health the measures that have been taken to fill a position for an occupational therapist in Buncrana, County Donegal early intervention team; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy MacLochlainn,

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

Within the East Donegal and Inishowen Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT), there is an allocation of one senior occupational therapist and one staff grade occupational therapist. The staff grade position is currently vacant and the CDNT is experiencing significant challenges in filling this position. The position remains with HSE recruitment and is regularly expressed out to both local and national occupational therapy panels. However, it remains unfilled at this time.

The senior occupational therapist position within the CDNT is filled and whilst the service will always endeavour to offer an equitable service, it is currently having to prioritise those children with higher complex needs and ongoing equipment needs within Occupational Therapy.

I trust that this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



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