



#### Seirbhís Míchumais

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir, Bloc B, Lárionad  
Cathrach, An tSráid Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill  
Mhantáin, A98 X329

#### Disability Service

HSE Community Healthcare East,  
Block B, Civic Centre, Main Street,  
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16th September 2022

Deputy Bríd Smith  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

***Re: PQ 44730/22 – “To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a matter in which a Section 39 care provider who could not provide consistent and regular care to two women with disabilities in County Wicklow was advised to approach the HSE home-support approved providers to determine whether there is capacity to fill the gaps in these women's care (details supplied); the steps that he will immediately take to address the issue of no carer capacity in the Greystones area at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”***

*Detail supplied:*

*Despite all providers both on and off tender being contacted, no provider has reported capacity to deliver any part of the care needs of these women.*

Dear Deputy Smith,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

Disability Services confirm there is an identified crisis within CHO 6 with regard to capacity of agencies to enhance or commence new Home Support Packages. This situation reflects the reported overall national workforce shortages in all sectors.

Disability Services in Community Healthcare East (CH East) are working closely with all home support agencies and our colleagues in Older Persons with a clear aim to enhance and increase capacity where opportunity presents.

Unfortunately, there are times when agencies with Service Arrangements approach Disability Services to advise they are challenged to full fill roster commitments to support service users due to the current capacity crisis. Disability Services make every effort to support the agency to manage the risks and resolve the issues prior to seeking capacity with another agency. On occasion, it has been necessary to collaborate with our colleagues in Older Persons.

Both Disability Services and Older Persons in CH East are working closely with all approved agencies with a view to enhancing and maintaining capacity for vulnerable persons in the



community who have been clinically assessed as requiring supports. All agencies report a significant challenge with recruitment in CH East and this is across the residential, respite and supported living sectors and it is not limited to any one any particular area within CH East.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PMcEvoy', written in a cursive style.

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***Patricia McEvoy***  
***Head of Service, Disability Services***