



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Service,
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26th September 2022

**Deputy Michael McNamara
Dail Eireann
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**

Email: Michael.McNamara@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ/45022/22

To ask the Minister for Health the additional staffing resources that are being provided to the Clare Children's Disability Network Team for the purpose of reducing waiting lists in County Clare; the measures that will be taken to further improve service delivery in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McNamara

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 the following outlines the position.

As stated in my letter to you, dated 21st March 2022, the HSE is experiencing a significant staffing resource challenge across all teams within the Midwest. Meanwhile caseloads have risen by 18% year on year over the past decade. We are continuously highlighting this need with submissions for additional resources to the national office and reviewing resources to allocate any available additional funding to priority areas. I refer to examples cited in my letter of 21st March.

Every effort is being made to recruit staff for all vacant permanent posts. In the interim these posts are filled by agency personnel.

The Mid-West CDNT received an additional four Development Posts thus far in 2022. In light of the recent high court ruling in relation to Assessment of Need (AON), a decision has been made to allocate these posts specifically to manage this change process and carry out the assessments, thus ensuring that all CDNTs including Clare CDNT will have more time to manage their caseload and waiting list.

In addition, the Mid-West has been allocated 19.5 posts to be specifically aligned with services to Special Schools. As the Clare CDNT currently provides services into two Special Schools in this area (St. Clare's and St. Anne's) we anticipate that we will receive a number of these posts in the near future to support the schools, again ensuring that Clare CDNT have more time to manage their caseload and waiting list.

We have secured additional funding in order to increase three part-time posts to full time.

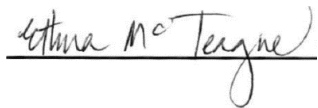
Clare CDNT will be considered, along with all Mid-West CDNT's for any future posts allocated to the Mid West under Progressing Disabilities Services.

Clare CDNT is currently providing services to two Community Health Networks (CHN). The team is only one of 5 nationally not attached to a single CHN. A business case has been submitted to the HSE National Office

requesting approval to establish a second team also to be located within the Clare region. This will enable Clare Children's Services to align one team per network thus providing two Children's Disability Network.

I trust this clarifies the situation but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Catha McTeague", is written over a horizontal line.

General Manager
Mid-West Disability Services