



Ceann Seirbhísí Daoine Scothaosta

Limistéar Cúram Sláinte Pobail an
Oirdheiscirt | Lacken |
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath | Cill Chainnigh |
R95 NV08

**Head of Service Older
Persons**

South East Community
Healthcare Area | Lacken |
Dublin Road | Kilkenny |
R95 NV08

Tel: 056 7784319

17th April 2023

Mr. John McGuinness, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 16854/23

To ask the Minister for Health the action the HSE has taken to recruit a physiotherapist for the rehab unit at St. Columba's Hospital, Thomastown, County Kilkenny, since January 2023 when notice was given; the interim arrangements being put in place to provide the service to patients; and if there is a date on which the full services will resume.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

Older Person Services are committed to replace all vacant and approved Physiotherapy posts assigned to the Rehabilitation Unit in St. Columba's Hospital, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. This includes the HSE normal recruitment process and liaising with agencies that may have available staffing.

It is important that Physiotherapy staff recruited have the necessary qualifications and experience to undertake the role and regrettably there is limited availability and those that are available have a number of options to select from.

Older Persons Services in the short term are exploring if there are any options within the current staffing complement to address the staffing shortfall in St. Columba's Hospital, Thomastown.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely,

**Bridget Farrell,
General Manager Older Persons
South East Community Healthcare**