



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

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

Chief Officer Offices, First Floor
St Brigids Complex, Kells Road,
Ardee, Co. Louth, A92 DRN0

www.hse.ie
@hselive
@MLMCommHealth

t 041 6859278
e CHO8@hse.ie

23rd March 2023

Deputy Darren O'Rourke,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ – 6922/23 To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the staff complement and existing vacancies in the four CDNT's serving County Meath; the number of children accessing services and on waiting lists; his plans to address staff vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Darren O'Rourke

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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 outlined the position as follows.

Please find outlined below the breakdown of WTE for each of the Meath CDNT's, total caseload and total no. of children waiting on an initial contact.

| Children's Disability Network Teams Meath | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | Approved WTE | WTE in post | WTE vacancies | Total Caseload | Total no. waiting for an initial contact |
| CDNT2 | 18.1 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 565 | 96 |
| CDNT4 | 30.38 | 16.43 | 13.95 | 1002 | 558 |
| CDNT5 | 22.03 | 17.34 | 4.69 | 811 | 285 |
| CDNT6 | 21.67 | 15.67 | 6 | 846 | 237 |

CHO8, similar to other parts of the health service, are experiencing significant recruitment challenges. These challenges are not unique to this CHO and are affecting many teams across the country and across many clinical disciplines, which is having an impact on service delivery.

The HSE is also currently actively engaged in various recruitment initiatives to fill vacant posts which will positively impact on waiting times for all disciplines. The CDNTs continue to strive to deliver as timely a service as possible but this is extremely challenging due to vacancy levels. Recruitment remains a priority and all efforts at a local and national level are being explored.

Multiple competitions have and continue to take place in efforts to fill all vacancies. The national pool is limited and although every effort is being made to maximise this pool through links with colleges and universities, there remains a significant deficit nationally in many of the clinical professions.



To supplement the national pool, the HSE is continuing to source candidates through the international market. The HSE is supported in this recruitment initiative by international recruitment partners who will engage and recruit with interested applicants on behalf of the service and to HSE standards

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 over a horizontal line.

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