



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

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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16th February, 2023

Mr. Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Questions 2707/23 & 2706/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of occupational therapists employed in the adult community services in County Offaly; the number of vacancies that exist; his plans to recruit additional occupational therapists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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To ask the Minister for Health the number of occupational therapists employed in the adult community services in County Laois; the number of vacancies that exist; and his plans to recruit additional occupational therapists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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 I outline the position as follows relevant to care group.

Primary Care

The number of Occupational Therapists employed in the adult community services in County Offaly total 8 Senior and 3 Staff grade. The number of Occupational Therapy vacancies which exists in adult community services in County Offaly total 1 Senior and 1 Staff Grade.

Plans to recruit additional Occupational Therapists to Co Offaly adult community services to date have resulted in the filling of one post in Offaly and unable to fill the remaining 2 positions. Further to this inability to fill from the recruitment panels, agency staff are being sought. For posts unable to fill, options in relation to international recruitment are being examined.

The number of Occupational Therapists employed in the adult community services in County Laois total 5 Senior and 2 Staff Grade. The number of Occupational Therapy vacancies which exists in adult community services in County Laois total 4 staff grade positions.

Plans to recruit into the vacant Occupational Therapist posts in Co Laois adult community services to date have resulted in recruitment being unable to fill the 4 positions. Further to this inability to fill from the recruitment panels, agency staff were also sought but to no avail. For posts unable to fill, options in relation to international recruitment are being examined.



Mental Health

Adult Mental Health Services Midlands can confirm that there is currently an allocation of 3 whole time equivalent Occupational Therapy staff in post in County Offaly and there are currently no vacancies.

Adult Mental Services can confirm that there is currently an allocation of 3 whole time equivalents in post and 1 vacancy in Co. Laois. This vacant post has been escalated to national recruitment panels, the vacancy has not yet been accepted by any candidate on the panel but efforts continue to complete the recruitment process. A new staff grade panel is pending with national recruitment.

Social Care Disability Services

There are two (2) approved whole time equivalent (WTE) Occupational Therapy posts for adults in Disability Services Laois Offaly. Both posts are fulltime and occupied currently.

They cover the two counties and are not assigned per county (one post is funded by primary care, the other funded by disability services).

I trust the above is in order and 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