



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

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14th February 2023

Deputy Ged Nash
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 63413/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and clinical psychologists in post as of 1 December 2022 at the south Louth and east Meath CAMHS service in Drogheda, County Louth; the HSE's plans to fill any vacant positions; the alternative supports that the HSE is prepared to provide to children who require specialist supports through the aforementioned disciplines in cases in which such posts are vacant; if the HSE plans to engage contractors in these specialist areas in the interim to provide the necessary professional supports to young people in the area who are clients of the local CAMHS; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Ged Nash

Dear Deputy Nash,

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.

On the 1st of December 2022 there was no senior Occupational Therapist post in ELMS CAMHS. However, the Senior Occupational Therapist post was advertised to local Louth Meath senior OT panel and CHO8 senior OT panel. There were no expressions of interest received. Also to date there are no suitable candidates available through agency.

There is currently a cross cover arrangement in place, whereby, an urgent assessment of a young person will be provided by the other CAMHS team Occupational Therapist based in Drogheda.

On the 1st of December 2022 there was no Speech & Language Therapist in ELMS CAMHS. This post was offered to the panel however to date we have received no positive expressions of interest from the panel. Agency is currently unable to supply a qualified candidate as “demand is higher than supply of qualified Speech & Language therapists”.



In the absence of the above disciplines the ELMS CAMHS Team will continue to provide support to children and their parents.

On the 1st of December 2022 there was no Senior Psychologist in ELMS CAMHS. The Senior Psychology post for ELMS CAMHS Team which had been vacant since January 2022 has now been recruited. The new Psychologist will be taking up post in September 2023 following a maternity leave absence. All possible efforts have been made to recruit sooner. There are no suitable candidates available through agency.

Cross cover for psychology is not possible at present due to a current deficit in psychologists.

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