

17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

**Deputy Michael McNamara**  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Email: [Michael.McNamara@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Michael.McNamara@oireachtas.ie)

Re: PQ/32689/23

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth what additional staffing resources have been provided to the Clare children's disability network team for the purpose of reducing waiting lists in County Clare since 2021; to confirm what measures 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 Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

Clare's Children Disability Network Team (CDNT) did not receive any staffing increases in 2021. They received 4.8 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts under the Special schools initiative in 2022. This was increased at local level to 5.9 WTE (0.8WTE increased to 1.0WTE and 0.6WTE increased to 1.0WTE in Physiotherapy posts; and 0.5 Senior Social Worker) under Haddington Road Agreement lost hours.

Clare has also 10.4WTE vacant posts and is experiencing significant recruitment and retention difficulties.

The above vacancies along with the small number of additional posts received but not yet recruited, total 16.3 WTEs, yet to be filled, only add to the numbers waiting for intervention in Clare CDNT. Every effort is being made at HR level to fill them.

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

Yours Sincerely



Ethna McTeague  
General Manager, Disability Services  
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare