



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do  
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

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21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Ms Louise O'Reilly, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Email: [louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ 33349/23** "To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth how many staff are currently in posts (details supplied) in Balbriggan CDNT; how many vacancies exist for each discipline; if those vacancies have been advertised; what is the recruitment process for these vacancies; when the CRC expects to fill those roles; and the estimated start dates." **Louise O'Reilly, TD**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are experiencing a number of challenges, in particular recruitment and retention of key health services staff, including psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, dieticians and physiotherapists. Unfortunately, there are more positions vacant than qualified staff available nationally and internationally. Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is experiencing vacancies ranging from 20-50% across the 12 CDNTs.

Due to ongoing challenges related to the recruitment and retention of staff on the Balbriggan CDNT, there are 13 staff in post with one currently on maternity leave. At present there are 16.4 permanent staff vacancies on the Balbriggan CDNT in total, the breakdown of these is as follows:

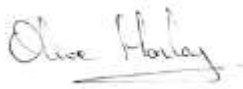
Grade	WTE
Senior Physiotherapist	3.4
Staff Grade Occupational Therapist	1
Occupational Therapist Assistant	1
Staff Grade Speech and Language Therapist	1
Senior Speech and Language Therapist	2.5
Senior Psychologist	3
Staff Grade Social Worker	2
Senior Social Worker	1
Home Support	1
Senior Dietician	0.5

All positions have been, and are currently, advertised on the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC) recruitment platform as well as on their website. CRC are also working closely with three recruitment agencies to try and source staff. In addition to these recruitment campaigns, CRC communications department are developing a bespoke media campaign to support all recruitment initiatives, which will be run across local and widespread platforms. There is also an ongoing targeted international recruitment campaign underway for all CDNTs within CHO DNCC.

While every effort is being made, unfortunately, due to the current difficulty in recruitment of key health services staff, it is not possible to give timeframes or start dates for the posts listed at present.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**Ms Olive Hanley**  
**Head of Service for Disability**