



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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1st August 2023

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 28951/23- To ask the Minister for Health if any progress has been made with respect to recruitment of occupational therapists in County Louth which has reached critical levels; if neighbouring areas with suitable levels of occupational therapists could transfer or redirect services; if persons will be offered appointments in neighbouring areas, in order to deal with the absolutely unacceptable void in services in the Louth area; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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 outline the position as follows;

A recruitment campaign for Senior Occupational Therapists was conducted in CHO8 between August and October 2022 and from this we were successful in recruiting 1.0WTE Senior OT Paediatric Occupational Therapist for North Louth who commenced in post on 17th April 2023, 1.0 WTE Senior OT for North Louth Adult Primary Care services who commenced on the 24th April 2023 and 1.0 WTE Senior OT for Adult Intellectual Disability Services who commenced on the 3rd July 2023.

We have also successfully recruited 1.0WTE Staff Grade OT to North Louth Primary Care Adults who commenced on the 13th February 2023 with another 1.0WTE Staff Grade OT for the North Louth Primary Care Adults currently going through the recruitment process.

At present, there is no capacity for cross cover due to long waiting lists in a number of care areas however this will be reviewed in conjunction with the Network Managers/Team Co-ordinators once the waiting lists have been validated.

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,

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation