

14th April 2023

Deputy Richard O'Donoghue
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: Richard.ODonoghue@oireachtas.ie

Re: **PQ/15877/23**

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if discussions are expected to increase the staffing levels in the services for children with special needs in Limerick County; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue

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 the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise that in recent years there have been incremental increases in staffing levels across the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare.

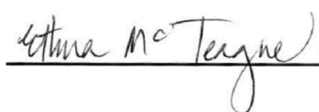
In 2021, 13.4 additional posts were allocated of which 7.4 posts were for CDNTs in the Limerick area.

In 2022, 8.5 additional posts were allocated to CDNTs in the Mid-West, to provide regional supports across the Mid-West which the Limerick based CDNTs would benefit from. In addition, 19.5 posts were allocated under the provision of supports to Special Schools in the Mid-West, aligned to the CDNTs. 11 of these posts were allocated to Limerick.

While there has been no confirmation of any additional posts for 2023 at this time, I understand there is reference to further allocations of posts to CDNTs in the Roadmap for Service Improvement which is currently in development at national level.

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