

23rd May, 2023

Mr. Denis Naughten, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 21838/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant occupational therapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO4; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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.

The Paediatric Occupational Therapy Department helps children and young people aged 0-18 years who are experiencing any difficulty in performing the daily activities expected of them. This may include any of the areas of self-care, dressing, toileting, feeding; movement and coordination such as balance skills, ball skills, hand-eye coordination; sensory processing; handwriting and planning and organising skills at home or school. Referrals are accepted from parents, guardians, teachers, or other professionals working with the child.

There is currently a total of 15.93 WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) Paediatric Occupational Therapy vacancies in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare at present (6 WTE are dual Paediatric / Adult Occupational Therapy roles).

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**