



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Baile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.

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Head of Service Primary Care,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
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Mr Denis Naughten TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

8th June 2023

PQ 21843/23 – *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant occupational therapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter”* – **Denis Naughten TD**

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) primary care currently has 93.3 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) approved Occupational Therapist (OT) posts with 33.6 WTE of them being Paediatric OT posts. At present, 66.2 WTE are in post, of which 23.1 WTE are Paediatric OT's. The Occupational Therapy teams work five days per week from Monday to Friday seeing on average of 140 patients a week within CHO DNCC.

There are currently four support staff working to help the primary care occupational therapists spend more time treating patients.

Within CHO DNCC Primary Care there are currently 34.1 WTE Occupational Therapist vacancies. 10.5 WTE of these are paediatric staff. A National HSE Recruitment Campaign took place recently and I am pleased to advise our CHO DNCC Human Resource Department have commenced an expression of interest process to help fill these posts.

Healthcare, like many other sectors is facing significant challenges in recruiting and retaining staff. This is particularly acute for therapist roles, where there are more vacancies than suitably qualified candidates. CHO DNCC is making every effort to fill these vacant roles as quickly as possible.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Tom O'Brien
Head of Service Primary Care