

20th September 2023

Eamon O'Cuiv TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare St
Dublin 2

PQ 37722/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason no alternative speech and language therapy cover has been provided for the speech and language therapy post in (CDNT4) while the incumbent is on maternity leave; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy O'Cuiv

I refer to PQ 37722/23 uploaded on the PAD System on the 31st August 2023 and due for response on the 22nd September 2023 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth concerning “the reason no alternative speech and language therapy cover has been provided for the speech and language therapy post in (CDNT4) while the incumbent is on maternity leave; and if he will make a statement on the matter”. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Please be advised that CDNT 4 currently has two Speech and Language Therapists on maternity leave. Maternity leave cover for both posts has been sanctioned by the Health Service Executive. Community Healthcare West (CHW) is pursuing all options possible to fill these posts for this specific term.

The recruitment and retention of staff in Children's Disability Network Teams is a top priority of CHW and our associated lead agencies.

Please be assured that Children's Disability Network Teams are committed to building a service for all children in the service that is responsive to need and supports families.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely



General Manager
Children's Disability Services
Community Healthcare West