



Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair  
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**Deputy Maurice Quinlivan**  
**34 Denmark Street**  
**Limerick**

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**PQ ref 40899/23 "To ask the Minister for Health when the trial 24/7 mental health de-escalation unit (community access support team) in Limerick will be launched; and if he will make a statement on the matter".**

Dear Deputy Quinlivan,

The Community Access Support Team (CAST) is a partnership approach between An Garda Síochána and HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare Mental Health Services to provide a joint Mental Health Service and Garda response to people experiencing an acute crisis and/or episode of situational trauma.

A Steering group for this project was formed on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021. It includes representatives of An Garda Síochána and the HSE and this Steering group has been progressing the project. The Operating Model has been agreed, the funding stream is being finalised and recruitment is commencing.

The CAST pilot project is expected to commence in Q1 2024. Its implementation is highly dependent on the appointment of key posts in An Garda Síochána and the HSE.

**Yours Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Collier', written over a horizontal line.

**Claire Collier**  
**A/Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Mid West Community Healthcare**