



01st March 2024

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re ref: PQ/7625/24:

To ask the Minister for Health when the position of occupational therapist for the Dublin 4 region (CH06) will be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Minister Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The current level of staffing and services provided are as follows; At present, Occupational Therapy (OT) Services for Community Healthcare Network 1 (CHN1) are operating at 60% capacity as a result of recruitment challenges and the HSE wide staffing embargo. As a result, the OT staff are carrying increased caseloads resulting in the operation of a prioritisation model.

CHN1 which covers Irishtown/Ringsend, Donnybrook, Ranelagh and Sandymount/Baggot Street Primary Care teams currently hold x2 Whole Time Equivalent Occupational Therapy vacancies. The existing staff, x3 Whole Time Equivalents, are being used to give a P1 service, and P2 service only as capacity allows, which is extremely limited at present.

P1 includes:

- Terminally ill, late stage with poor prognosis, palliative.
- Pressure relief with a Waterlow Score of 20+ or Braden- lower than 14 or broken skin.
- Breakdown or failure of essential equipment.
- Hoist assessment.

All other needs are classed as P2, and would include:

- Pressure prevention.
- Progressive conditions presenting with complex social and functional problems.



- Older persons, living alone with a history of falls or dependent frail.
- Clients or carers experiencing severe difficulties/at risk.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne Doherty'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Adrienne Doherty,
General Manager Dublin South East, Primary Care