

Ms Niamh Smyth T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

7th February 2024

Re: PQ ref 1898/24 - DSPQ22005(8) - Cavan Hydrotherapy Pool

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason the hydrotherapy pool in Cavan is still without clinical staff trained to deliver hydrotherapy in a service (details supplied) to users in need of the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” - Niamh Smyth

Dear Deputy Smyth,

I refer to your parliamentary question above which has been referred to me for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Enable Ireland Children’s Disability Network Manager (CDNM) has advised that recruitment of Physiotherapists for the Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) Cavan has presented a challenge. The CDNT Cavan currently has 1.5 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Senior Physiotherapists in post. There is a vacancy of 1 WTE Senior Physiotherapist and 1 WTE Staff Grade Physiotherapist. Vacancies have been advertised numerous times but, unfortunately, the CDNT Cavan has been unsuccessful in securing staff for these roles.

A clinical specialist physiotherapy post, specialising in the area of motor management was approved in order to try to make the development of the hydrotherapy service in Cavan more attractive. To date Enable Ireland has been unsuccessful in recruiting a suitably qualified candidate to this role. Recruitment efforts for all vacancies within CDNT Cavan, including the Physiotherapy positions, are ongoing by Enable Ireland.

The CDNT Cavan CDNM has advised that a new Senior Physiotherapist commenced post at the end of November 2023, which has been a welcome addition to the team. The CDNT is in the process of sourcing relevant training for the current staff, such as mandatory shallow water training and informal training, support and supervision in relation to providing hydrotherapy for children with complex needs. The CDNT is actively working towards upskilling relevant clinical staff to develop the hydrotherapy service in a safe and evidence based manner.



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 'Edel Quinn', written in a cursive style.

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CH CDLMS
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar CDLMS