



Oifig an Bhainisteoir Limistéar Sláinte
Comhtháite - Lár na Tíre

Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach
Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí, R35 TY28

Office of the Integrated Health Area
Manager - Midlands

IHA Midlands Manager office, Area
Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co.
Offaly, R35 TY28

www.hse.ie
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t 057 9359787
e IHA.Midlands@hse.ie

22nd July 2025

Deputy Brian Stanley
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 36678/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken and the progress made in relation to filling the vacant Occupational Therapists Posts in Primary Care in Co. Laois, there has been no Occupational Therapists in the service for several years; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Brian Stanley,

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

The Health Service Executive's Primary Care services within Midlands Integrated Healthcare Area are operating within the HSE's Pay & Numbers Strategy (PNS), which allows for recruitment of staffing within specific WTE limits and timeframes. A number of vacant posts from 2023 and previous are no longer categorised as approved posts under the HSE's Pay & Numbers Strategy. For approved vacant posts, these are progressing in line with the processes in place within the Dublin & Midlands Health Region.

I trust the above is in order, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Donal Fitzsimons
Acting IHA Manager Midlands