



**Ceann Seirbhíse,
Cúraim Príomhúil**

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha
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10th October 2025

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 52385/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place to address the large number of people in County Donegal on waiting lists for occupational therapy; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Doherty

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response.

Having examined the matter, I can advise the following outlines a summary of the measures being undertaken to address the number of people in County Donegal on the waiting list for occupational therapy.

Service Reviews

At present, management within both adult and paediatric Primary Care Occupational Therapy services are undertaking service reviews across staff teams to assess and enhance service delivery to safely address waiting lists. The key objectives of this review include:

- Assessing capacity/resources to address current waiting lists within the service.
- Improving and streamlining work processes to increase efficiency in managing increased workloads and the complexity of presenting needs.
- Exploring alternative models of service delivery aligned with high quality, safe systems of work and evidence-based practice.
- Enhancing integration with other services, both in acute and community settings.

Recruitment Impacts and Initiatives

Management has collaborated with HSE West NorthWest Regional Human Resources to recruit graduates from Atlantic Technological University/Coventry University under an incentivised scheme. As a result, several staff grade Occupational Therapists will soon join the service.



However, challenges remain due to vacant posts within the service. Recruitment processes for the vacancies are ongoing and are being carried out in line with HSE National Directives. Looking ahead, management plans to submit a request for additional Occupational Therapy posts as part of the 2026 Estimates Process to support service needs.

I trust this is of assistance, however, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Doyle
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