

27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Claire Kerrane TD  
Dail Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Office of the General Manager  
Disability Social Care  
Community Healthcare West,  
Old Health Centre, Vicar St., Tuam, Co. Galway.  
Tel: 09337951 Email: alma.joyce@hse.ie

**PQ 23367/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if there are vacancies in the Disability Network Team for counties Roscommon and Galway; the number of vacancies that exist; and the timeframe these vacancies have existed”.**

Dear Deputy Kerrane

I refer to PQ 23367/22 uploaded on the PAD System on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and due for response on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health concerning “if there are vacancies in the Disability Network Team for counties Roscommon and Galway; the number of vacancies that exist; and the timeframe these vacancies have existed”. I wish to apologise for the late response to PQ 23367/22, The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Please be advised that there are a number of vacant posts associated with the Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) 4 to 9 Galway and Roscommon. The vacancy rate for staff in CDNTs 4 to 9 vary from 8% to 39% with the average vacancy rate across the 6 teams equating to 24%. Some posts were noted as vacant prior to reconfiguration of children’s disability services into CDNTs in October 2021.

Recruitment and retention of staff remains a priority for the delivery of services to children with complex needs that are registered with the CDNTs in Community Healthcare West (CHW). We are currently recruiting staff across all disciplines for a waiting list initiative to address waiting times in all Children’s Disability Network Teams. We continue to actively recruit, on a daily basis, for therapy staff via the HSE recruitment process and through private recruitment agencies, however, this is particularly challenging due to unprecedented shortages in personnel in the allied health professional sector.

I trust that this response has clarified the matters that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely



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Alma Joyce  
General Manager  
Disability Services  
Community Healthcare West