

29th October, 2024

Mr. Brendan Griffin, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 40969/24**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the measures the HSE has put in place to address the chronic shortfall in HSE physiotherapy services in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Griffin,

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 response.

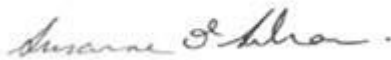
HSE Southwest Primary Care Services acknowledges the current challenges in relation to physiotherapy staffing levels in Kerry. As of July 2024, the waiting list for Kerry Primary Care Services exceeds 3,700 individuals, reflecting an increase of 800 patients' year-to-date. Despite these pressures, our teams have actively implemented several initiatives, such as validation, reducing DNA/CAN (Did Not Attend/Cancelled), prioritisation of cases, and patient-initiated reviews to manage the growing demand.

However, we continue to face significant staffing shortages that impact our ability to reduce waiting times, particularly for high-priority cases.

Despite these challenges, our dedicated physiotherapy staff continue to provide high-quality care to the patients they are able to see, prioritising those most at risk. We remain committed to addressing the staffing shortfall and improving service capacity to meet the needs of the community.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Susanne O'Sullivan**  
**Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**