



Deputy Claire Kerrane
Leinster House Office,
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Claire.Kerrane@Oireachtas.ie

29th July 2026

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

Further to Parliamentary Question 40237/202, namely:

To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if any persons who entered special care to work as security personnel have since taken up a role as a special care worker.

Special care units are secure, residential facilities for children in care aged between 11 and 17 years. They are detained under a High Court care order for a short-term period of stabilisation when their behaviour poses a real and substantial risk of harm to their life, health, safety, development or welfare. The Child and Family Agency (Tusla) has statutory responsibility for the operation of Special Care in Ireland.

Tusla have advised that staff who apply to work in Special Care, apply through the openly run public recruitment campaign and must meet the eligibility criteria. This is an open process.

Tusla may engage the services of Close Protection Personnel through a Close Protection Company licensed by the Private Security Authority of Ireland to support the prevention of serious injury to staff. Close Protection Personnel (CPP) are only deployed in addition to existing social care staff in line with organisational policies and procedures.

I am advised by Tusla that no security or Close Personal Protection personnel have been converted from third party staff to Tusla Special Care Worker.

Officials in the Department will continue to provide the necessary support to Tusla to address the challenges impacting on special care and to improve the delivery of high-quality care to children and young people.



Warm regards and good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Norma Foley', with a horizontal line underneath.

Norma Foley TD.

Minister for Department of Children, Disability and Equality