



Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair &  
Tuaisceart Chontae  
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare  
Organisation  
Dublin North City &  
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Sóisialta,  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae  
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1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Ms. Louise O'Reilly, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

Email: [louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: 22456 PQ 17029/19 \*To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that children in north County Dublin are waiting up to three years for early intervention; his views on whether the HSE should dispense with the use of the term early intervention in view of the length of the delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

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Dear Deputy,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There is a high demand for Early Intervention Services in the area. There are a growing number of local factors driving this demand, namely the increasing child population and growth in terms of the children presenting with complex needs. I understand each parent's priority is for their child and I empathise with their frustration. The current longest waiting time for children to access services from the Early Intervention Team in North County Dublin is up to thirty three months.

I acknowledge your reference to the use of the term Early Intervention Services for the actual team who deliver the interventions to children. Early Intervention Services is a term that is used nationally by the HSE and in CHO DNCC; it refers to the age profile of the children that the service accepts and this includes children aged between 0 and five years, who present with complex developmental needs. Many children also access early interventions via their local primary care services and other relevant HSE services.

We have recruited five additional staff and assigned them to the Early Intervention Team in North Dublin which has the longest waiting times. All of the additional posts are in place since Quarter one 2019. This will allow a greater number of children on the waiting list receive appointments from the service. Applications through Early Intervention Services are dealt with in order of date of application.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Mairead Lyons**  
Head of Service - Social Care