



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784100

18th December 2019

Mr. John McGuinness TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 51794/19

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 159 of 6 November 2019, the reason there are no primary care paediatric services in County Kilkenny; if children referred to the service can be seen in another county or a location in which the service exists; if, in the event of the service continuing to be unavailable through the HSE, funding will be provided for the children to be seen privately; if the referral of James Tyrrell, Kilbline, Station Road, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny made by the public health nurse on 26 October 2018 will be dealt with as a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

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

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

As you are aware, the Occupational Therapy services in this area recently experienced staffing challenges. However, the vacancy that existed was successfully recruited for and a new member of staff commenced employment. I can confirm that Mr. James Tyrrell, Kilbline, Station Road, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny received an occupational therapy appointment on the 12th December 2019.

In relation to accessing services outside of a client's area, once a referral is received, clients can receive treatment within the Co. Carlow and Co. Kilkenny area. Normally treatment is provided for in a location most suitable to the client's needs. Access to the provision of private services is not provided for within South East Community Healthcare.

Please be assured that the HSE Occupational Therapy Service monitors the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria.

Should you have any further queries in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare