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15/02/2019

Deputy Martin Heydon,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 3780/19

To ask the Minister for Health the consideration given to moving audiology services to a qualified provider system that would assist with the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Martin Heydon

Dear Deputy Heydon,

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

The National Audiology Review Group Report (2011) recommended the introduction of a domestic training programme for audiologists. The HSE supported this development and facilitates MSc student placement training, with 18 graduating over the 2017 and 2018 period. The availability of highly qualified audiologists is reducing the risk of being unable to fill vacancies and will lead to a more sustainable service.

A review is currently underway to determine the shortfall in Audiologists, based upon the NARG recommendations, for appropriate HSE Audiology service delivery.

Where additional funding has been made available to the audiology service for waiting list initiatives, a number of different solutions have been implemented which are assisting in addressing waiting times for the service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siobhán McArdle'.

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations