



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara

Head of Service, Primary Care  
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow,  
Community Healthcare  
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 045 882 527

26<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Deputy Bernard Durkan  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 47824/19

*To ask the Minister for Health if replacement staff for speech and language therapists on maternity leave can be provided in CHO7 in view of the urgent need to ensure that children depending on the service can rely on its continuity; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

*- Bernard J Durkan*

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) acknowledges that reduced staffing levels in the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) can affect outcomes for children waiting on the services. Whilst individuals on maternity leave in the SLT service in this community organisation are not automatically replaced, where possible clinicians are temporarily employed to replace individuals on maternity leave.

The HSE continues to monitor staffing levels in the SLT service as a priority and endeavours to replace maternity leave for therapists where possible, within available resources.

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

Yours sincerely,

*Catherine Deery General Manager Primary Care Service.*

Mary O'Kelly  
Head of Service  
Primary Care