



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

9th October 2019

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
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Dublin 2

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PQ 40228/19

**To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be available to a service (details supplied) in order for it to hire additional speech and language therapists to prevent cutbacks to the vital service it provides to children with autism - Aengus Ó Snodaigh.*

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Representation. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The HSE has prioritised the service identified by Deputy O' Snodaigh to ensure that posts becoming vacant in that service for whatever reasons are replaced to ensure continuity of service provision to those children availing of such services.

The HSE is currently reviewing Beechpark services in the context of the implications of moving forward with the National Policy Framework that is Progressing Disabilities. This policy is in pursuit of the reconfiguration of all complex paediatric disability service provision to ensure that services are available to all children in close proximity to their place of residence.

All future investment in Speech & Language Therapy services by the HSE will be in the context of the framework outlined with the Progressing Disabilities Policy. Access to information in this regard is available on the HSE Website.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you but should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mr John O'Donovan,
Head of Social Care