



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

16th October 2019

Deputy Bernard J Durkan
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 41526/19

“To ask the Minister for Health the degree to which it is planned to provide maternity cover for speech and language therapists; if his attention has been drawn to fact that the lack of services while therapists are on maternity leave is a major setback for children; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

- **Bernard J Durkan**

Dear Deputy Durkan,

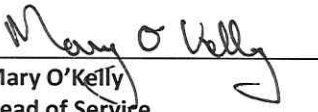
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

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 continue to monitor staffing levels in the SLT service as a priority and all attempts are made to address service provision for children to ensure their needs are met.

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,


Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service
Primary Care