



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil  
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care  
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17<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

Deputy Pearse Doherty  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ ref 38191/19** To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the difficulties being experienced by users when trying to access speech and language services at a Dungloe Community Hospital during the maternity leave of the post holder.

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

To ensure continuity of service cross cover from existing staff assigned to the South Donegal Primary Care Networks, will commence in the North West Donegal Primary Care Network in early September 2019.

The Speech and Language Therapy service aims to provide a service to clients with the highest clinical need as a priority, however due to on-going reductions in staffing nationally, clients with lower clinical needs may have to wait longer for Speech and Language Therapy input.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Dermot Monaghan,  
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil  
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