



Louise O'Reilly TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

25th June 2020

PQ 11111/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of baby developmental checks carried out in the first five months of 2020; and the way in which this compares to the first five months of 2018 and 2019, respectively - Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 11111/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The reported metric that is relevant to your question is the number of new born babies visited by a Public Health Nurse within 72 hours of discharge from maternity services and the most recent available data is at April 2020. In January to April 2020 the reported figure for this metric is 11,569 which is a reduction of 36% compared to 18,119 in the same period in 2019 and 18,243 in the same period of 2018. The reported figure for 2020 is impacted as all non essential clinical work was suspended in March 2019 due to COVID-19. This included all routine child developmental screening and surveillance.

The HSE have developed a formal programme of work under the governance of the Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Operations Officer namely the Continuity of System Wide Healthcare Services Steering Group. The focus is to plan the recommencement of the delivery of Non-COVID Services to address ongoing clinical demands while maintaining capacity for COVID-19 rapid response.

All service areas including baby developmental checks are considered as part of this planning process and it should be noted that Child Health is considered a strategic priority in considerations around service continuity and recovery.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

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

Siobhán Mc Ardle

Head of Operations: Primary Care

Community Operations