



Brian Stanley TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9th November 2020

PQ 30622/20

“To ask the Minister for Health if measures will be put in place to clear the backlog of those children that are waiting for speech and language, occupational therapy and child psychology services. -Brian Stanley”

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 30622/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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.

A date for the full resumption of routine services has not been set but the preparatory work in terms of infrastructure readiness to ensure a clean and safe environment is underway. Every effort will be made to restore all Non-COVID services as soon as possible in the context of “A safe return to health services – restoring services in a Covid Environment” and public health guidance as it evolves through implementation of the Governments “Resilience and Recovery 2020 – 2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19”.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic a level of level of service continued to be provided for referrals to speech and language, occupational therapy and psychology services for those referrals considered to be a priority.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Siobhán Mc Ardle in black ink.

Siobhán Mc Ardle

Head of Operations: Primary Care
Community Operations