



27th November 2020

Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 36754/20 - "To ask the Minister for Health if a roadmap to clear the backlog for children waiting for occupational therapy assessments will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Christopher O'Sullivan

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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.

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 of level of service continued to be provided for paediatric referrals to occupational therapy for those referrals which were considered to be a priority.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Siobhán Mc Ardle

Head of Operations: Primary Care
Community Operations