



David Cullinane TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

20th October 2020

PQ 28171/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients that had their appointments cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic from 2 March 2020 to 1 September 1 2020, by HSE CHO region in tabular form; the number of these cancellations that refer to patients from mainstream national schools, special classes in mainstream schools, special schools, adults in special care, other special care children and orthodontic patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane”

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 28171/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE does not report data on the number of patients that had their appointments cancelled whether this due to the Covid-19 pandemic or otherwise. The reported activity metric for services is the numbers seen. In the time period noted a level of service continued to be provided for those referrals considered to be a priority.

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”.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Siobhán Mc Ardle

Head of Operations: Primary Care
Community Operations