



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

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18th September 2020

Peadar Tobin, T.D.

PQ 23048/20 To ask the Minister for Health if it will be ensured that the HSE provides backup services for clinical staff such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, speech and language therapists in cases in which a clinician is absent for most of their tenure and are allocated but not available and staff are on leave, for example, if a staff member takes paternal leave for a year and persons with a disability are deprived of a service and no provision is made for cover during the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

In the cases where a staff member is not available to provide services, the cover provided is decided by local management based on the resources available to them at the time. Local management are required to operate within the funding envelope provided in line with government policy and will identify arrangements to cover from resources available. Often times, the cover is provided by agency staff engaged to meet specific operational requirements or through the provision of short term contracts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

Marie O Sullivan
National HR