



**Cúram Sláinte
Pobail Thoir**
ag freastal ar Bhaile Átha Cliath
Thoir Theas, Baile Átha Cliath
Theas agus Cill Mhantáin

**Community
Healthcare East**
serving Dublin South East,
Dublin South and Wicklow

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil
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An tSráid Mhór, Bré,
Co. Chill Mhantáin, A98 X329.
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16th September 2020

Deputy Steven Matthews,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Head of Service Primary Care
HSE Community Healthcare East,
Block B, Civic Centre,
Main Street, Bray,
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Re: PQ Ref 23608/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of adult speech and language therapists operating in County Wicklow; and the services available to adults in need of such care in cases in which access to a therapist is not available.”

Dear Deputy Matthews,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health and Children for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There is currently one Senior Adult Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) providing services to Adults who present with Speech Language and Communication needs and those presenting with Feeding Eating Drinking and Swallowing disorders. The Adult SLT works as part of the multi-disciplinary team, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing, dietetics and general practitioners, in these areas to support the needs of adults presenting with these difficulties.

Unfortunately this service is only available to residents in Community Networks 3 and 4 which includes the Wicklow, Arklow, and Carnew areas and the geographic area encompassed within these networks. The HSE does not have an equivalent service in the North of the county, Community Networks 1 and 2 including the areas Bray, Greystones, Kilcoole, and Newtownmountkennedy.

It is our understanding that Open Door in Bray, provide some rehabilitative services to adults, and the SLT department in St Columcilles Hospital in Loughlinstown provide in-patient services to patients resident in North Wicklow.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Raeside

**Maeve Raeside,
Acting Head of Service, Primary Care**