



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

1st October 2020

PQ 25219/20

“To ask the Minister for Health when developmental checks for children previously administered by the HSE will recommence; the estimated number of checks missed; the number of checks and referrals to early intervention teams, speech and language therapists and other health professionals from March to September this year; the number of checks and referrals to early intervention teams, speech and language therapists, and other health professionals in the same period for 2019; 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 25219/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

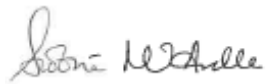
The HSE reports on the number of those children reaching 10 months within the reporting period who have had their Child Development Health Screening on time or before reaching 12 months of age. In the period March to July 2020 a total of 8,594 children in this age category had this check within the specified time period compared to 22,851 in same period in 2019. A level of service continued to be provided for those referrals considered to be a priority. Note that the HSE does not report data on referrals to other services following Child Development Health Screenings.

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.

The child immunisation programmes was prioritised in the recommencement of services and this work has been progressed over the last number of months. A date for the resumption of routine developmental checks has not been set but the preparatory work in terms of infrastructure readiness to ensure a clean and safe environment is underway. This programme of work is a priority for the Health Service Executive and every effort will be made to restore these and other Non-COVID services as soon as possible in a safe and effective way.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Siobhán Mc Ardle".

Siobhán Mc Ardle

Head of Operations: Primary Care

Community Operations