



7th October 2020

Deputy Richard Bruton,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 25737/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that diverting speech and language therapists risks disrupting service at a critical time and disrupting the pipeline of work experience for graduates.

-Richard Bruton

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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 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.

All service areas including Speech and Language Therapy are considered as part of this planning process however at this point we would not be in a position to be definite about the actual date of when these services are expected to return to pre-Covid-19 levels. This programme of work is a priority for the Health Service Executive and every effort will be made to restore Non-COVID services as soon as possible in a safe and effective way.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Pp

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations