



5th May 2021

Deputy Thomas Gould,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 19252/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if developmental checks for babies have fully resumed; if a plan has been put in place to ensure any backlog is cleared; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Thomas Gould

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 19252/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Due to COVID-19, all non-essential clinical work was suspended in mid-March 2020, including all routine child developmental checks. 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.

The child immunisation programmes was prioritised in the recommencement of services and this work has been progressed in recent weeks. 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,

Maeve Raeside

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations