



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae Bhaile Átha
Cliath,
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.

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Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
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Mr. Duncan Smith, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

16th March 2021

PQ 11201/21 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech and language therapists and administrative staff and the grades of each the have been reallocated from CHO9 since March 2020; the measures under way to mitigate delays for children who require a speech and language assessment and intervention in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

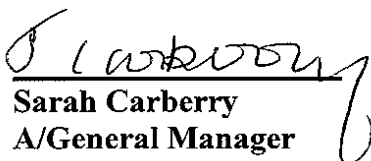
There have been no speech and language therapists (SLT) permanently reallocated from Community Healthcare Organisation – Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. The majority of SLTs in CHO DNCC were redeployed to assist in Covid-19 matters from March until June 2020, and whilst some SLTs were available for occasional swabbing from June until October 2020, this was on an intermittent basis. There has been no redeployment of SLTs since October 2020.

In addition, no administration staff have been redeployed since October 2020.

Since the reopening of clinics and the introduction of telehealth appointments in our service, the SLT service is actively working to reduce children's waiting times for initial assessment further. With the development of Enhanced Community Care Networks to include extra SLT staff, it is hoped that once recruited this will have a further positive impact on waiting lists.

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,


Sarah Carberry
A/General Manager