



12th April 2021

Holly Cairns TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 16953/21:

“To ask the Minister for Health the training given to public health nurses to support the parents of infants and young children with Down syndrome born during the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Holly Cairns”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 16953/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The child health service consists of vaccinations, screening and child health reviews. The blended learning training programme for registered public health nurses delivering child health services supports the delivery of the universal child health service that is provided to all children. The National Healthy Childhood Programme has not, to date, developed training for registered public health nurses specifically for children with Down Syndrome.

I am aware that student public health nurses are prepared for generalist practice and modules related to child health and maternal health are included. As a consequence of the generalist focus no single disability, disease or condition is covered specifically on any part of the programme. In terms of intellectual disability, some centres provide lectures by specialist academics. Students are supported by their preceptor public health nurses in applying this theory to practice during clinical placement.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.
Community Operations.