



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

16th April, 2021

Deputy Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ16957/21

****To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure Irish sign language interpretation services are available in all acute hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Holly Cairns***

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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 am advised by Social Inclusion that all service users within our hospitals can access the IRIS service online. IRIS provides a video-link to an Irish Sign Language Interpreter; the interpreter is based in the IRIS office and interprets using Irish Sign Language on a computer with internet access and a webcam. This is an additional service and does not replace face-to-face interpreting.

I am also advised by the CEO's of the hospital groups that arrangements are in place in their hospitals to provide Irish sign language interpretation services on request.

If there is a specific area of concern, please provide the details and I will be happy to make enquiries on the matter.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations