



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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18/07/2022

Deputy Emer Higgins
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 36022/22

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to developmental checks by public health nurses not being offered to families in Lucan, Co. Dublin; the action that he proposes to take to ensure that infants receive these checks to ensure early intervention where required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Emer Higgins

Dear Deputy Higgins,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm that there are staff shortages in the Public Health Nursing (PHN) Service across CHO7 Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow (DSKWW). This is impacting the delivery of routine, non-priority developmental screening assessments in Dublin West. The Dublin West team have implemented a system, which enables them to prioritise the required screening services and address those needs, while the staffing issue is being addressed.

The HSE will continue to recruit PHNs to fill vacancies across the area. There will be four newly qualified Public Health Nurses that are due to start from mid to late July. The situation is expected to improve in coming months when student PHNs are allocated to the area.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Farrelly,
Interim Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare