



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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18/11/2022

Deputy Gino Kenny  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 56805/22 – Re: Rathcoole county Dublin**

*“To ask the Minister for Health if public health nurses will no longer be carrying out developmental routine baby and child checks unless the child is recommended by a medical practitioner as priority or considered priority by a public health nurse (details supplied); and if so, the reason that developmental routine checks for all children are no longer available”*

Deputy Gino Kenny

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Dear Deputy Kenny,

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

The Health Service Executive can confirm the Public Health Nursing Service Dublin West is experiencing a significant shortage of Public Health Nurses and Community Registered Nurses. Every effort has been made to recruit staff however the department has not been in a position to fill existing vacancies.

There has been detailed planning of work at site-specific levels to proactively manage the impact of Covid 19, staff retirements, staff transfers, maternity leave and sick leave (short and long term) on front-line services. Site-specific contingency plans continue to be refined monthly. Reconfiguration and integration of services, reorganisation of existing work and redeployment of staff will continue to underpin the department’s contingency plans. The Health Service Executive are continuing efforts to recruit staff and currently there is a 3rd Community registered General Nurse Campaign underway.

Parents are encouraged to contact the Public Health Nursing Service if they have any concerns regarding their child’s development.

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 & West Wicklow Community Healthcare**