



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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27/10/2022

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ 52908/22**

***“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update in relation to the public health nurse network in the Dublin west region; if there is a timeframe available regarding when the service will return to normal and if he will make a statement on the matter”***

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin

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Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

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 is being 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 and reconfiguration and integration of services, reorganisation of existing work and redeployment of staff will continue to underpin the department's contingency plans. At this time there are 4.6 PHN vacancies in Lucan.

The Health Service Executive is continuing efforts to recruit staff and currently there is a third Community Registered General Nurse Campaign underway.

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