



13/04/2023

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 16052/23

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm information received by parents of young children in Newcastle, County Dublin that no public health nurse service is available in their area; the reason this is the case; if his Department is taking action to ensure a public health nurse service is provided in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin

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 Mid-West is experiencing a significant shortage of Public Health Nurses (PHN) and Community Registered Nurses. Recruitment to fill vacant nursing posts continues to challenge the Nursing Services despite ongoing recruitment campaigns and attendances at recruitment fairs both Nationally and Internationally. Currently there is a rolling RGN (Registered General Nurses) campaign underway to fill vacant positions, however to date none of the Registered General Nurses (RGN) and Public Health Nurses (PHN) posts have been filled.

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 will continue to run recruitment campaigns to fill vacant posts.

Parents are encouraged to contact the PHN Service if they have any concerns or queries 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**