



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Martin Browne  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**PQ 63276/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if there are adequate numbers of Irish sign language interpreters to provide services for persons with hearing difficulties in hospital; the process involved in securing an Irish sign language interpreter for inpatients and outpatients; the way that such interpreters are sourced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Martin Browne**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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,

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**