



Ms Mary Lou McDonald TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

11th July 2023

PQ 29241/23 – *“To ask the Minister for Health how many children in the CHO9 area that have been referred to HSE eye clinics, having failed the school screening services for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively.”*
– **Mary Lou McDonald TD**

Dear Deputy McDonald,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) Public Health Nursing (PHN) Services collates key performance indicators relating the school vision screening service based on the school year rather than the calendar year, and as such figures for September 2022- June 2023 are not complete.

Number of Children in CHO DNCC referred to HSE Eye Clinics having failed school vision screening:

	Sept 2020 - June 2021	Sept 2021 - June 2022	Sept 2022 - Feb 2023*
Total	853	1062	597*

*A complete figure from September 2022-June 2023 will not be available until later this summer once figures are collated.

School vision screening was negatively impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic, due to the public health protection measures in place. During this time, a large cohort of children did not receive a school screening.

Any parents who have concerns about their child’s hearing or sight, are encouraged to speak to their GP or their local Public Health Nurse.

A number of measures were put in place:

- During Summer 2022 local School Vision Screening Clinics set up to provide an opportunity for all children (within the screening cohort) in Dublin North to have their vision screened.
- For school year 2021/2022, all children attending DEIS Schools had the opportunity to have their vision and hearing screened in their school. Non-DEIS schools had their hearing screened in school and were invited to a local centre (community/primary care) to have their vision screened.

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

Yours sincerely,



Tom O'Brien
Head of Service Primary Care