



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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11<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Deputy Higgins,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 14931/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if a child who is assessed privately for a speech and language disorder, can then seek access to HSE supports based on the opinions of a private medical professional; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

**- Emer Higgins**

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Dear Deputy Higgins,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 14931/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE, as an organisation, aims to provide a continuum of care for service users across the health system. In relation to Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) services, we are aware that parents at times seek private SLT assessments and interventions while waiting for public services or to supplement what they may be already receiving.

When assessing and treating a child, HSE SLTs will review and consider any relevant assessments in the context of their own professional judgement, assessment, knowledge of the child, situation and the services they believe are required and are available at the time.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations