



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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9th June 2023

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

PQ 23434/23 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify as to the reason the HSE has not allocated additional nursing support in order that children with complex medical issues can attend school; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 23434/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Department of Education are funding a pilot service for the 2022 / 2023 school year to support children with complex healthcare needs to attend school. The pilot service is led through the National Council for Special Education (NCSE). The NCSE has advised that the outcome of the pilot service will inform the provision of nursing support for students with complex healthcare needs into the future.

HSE Primary Care provides a home nursing service to children that have healthcare and/or nursing needs. This home nursing service is delivered through an individual Paediatric Home Care Package (PHCP). The HSE is supporting the pilot service by extending the existing PHCP from the home into the school setting. This will allow a nurse to attend school with the student for an agreed number of hours per week, and travel to and from school with them, if necessary. The provision of HSE nursing support to facilitate attendance at school is for those children who meet the eligibility criteria for the pilot as set out on the NCSE website at www.ncse.ie.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Operations