



19th April 2024

Mr Cian O Callaghan, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: Cian.OCallaghan@oireachtas.ie

PQ 6148/24 – *“To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine the situation at a health centre (details supplied), whereby children's developmental screenings cannot proceed in the community due to a lack of nurses at the centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter”* **Cian O’Callaghan TD**

Dear Deputy O’ Callaghan

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Dublin North Public Health Nursing team based at Baldoyle Primary Care Centre currently comprises of two public health nurses and there is one vacancy for a registered general nurse for this area. Vacant posts are subject to the current Employment Control Measures and confirmation of the 2024 Pay and Numbers ceiling. Once we are in a position to proceed, the recruitment process will recommence immediately.

Due to this vacancy and high clinical nursing caseloads, the nursing team activated the National Caseload Prioritisation Procedure for Public Health Nursing services on 29th January 2024 and all caseloads were placed on Priority 1 status. This indicates an immediate, time-sensitive response which requires actions to be delivered at the first contact within 24 to 72 hours. Staff from other networks within Dublin North are providing cover five mornings every week in the interim until the role is filled. Management will continue to monitor the situation on a weekly basis.

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,

Deirdre Hogan
General Manager Primary Care
Dublin North