



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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23rd April 2024

Deputy Ó Broin,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 13380/24 -To ask the Minister for Health if there is a process through which parents who have been unable to access developmental checks for their children due to staff shortages in their area, can access an appointment in an alternative location; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -

- Eoin Ó Broin

Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 13380/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Public Health Nurses are healthcare professionals who provide a range of nursing services in the community including child development assessments in line with the National Healthy Childhood Programme. The Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) track waiting lists on a continuous basis and ensure they prioritise the provision of care for those identified as having the greatest needs and the highest risk within the overall resource. The geographic catchment areas for Primary Care Teams and Primary Care Networks are defined nationally by CHO based on population figures.

We do not currently offer the option of attending an alternative CHO location for child development checks. Where PHN shortfalls arise, we work to ensure services are focused on identifying and supporting patients who have the greatest need by enabling staff to be deployed where necessary to support these children. HSE management work in conjunction with the local areas to monitor performance and address issues as they arise.

Child development checks remain a priority and any parents with a concern should contact their GP or local Public Health Nursing service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations