



12/03/2025

Deputy Jen Cummins  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 6474/25** To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the resourcing and staffing for public health nurse for developmental checks in Drimnagh, Dublin 12.

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Dear Deputy Jen Cummins,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you regarding your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE Dublin and Midlands is experiencing challenges in relation to the recruitment and retention of PHNs within the greater Dublin area. The staff shortages have meant that some areas are operating a Priority 1 (P1) service as per the National Caseload Prioritisation Procedure for the PHN Service. This means that the service is prioritising essential services in line with immediate clinical needs and national guidelines, and unfortunately some services will not be provided. Regrettably, this may include child development assessments. Births notification visits face to face, primary visit new-born infant and postnatal assessments are identified as time sensitive and are a Priority 1 for the service. The PHN team endeavour to deliver contact to new parents within 24 -72 hrs of discharge from hospital. Parents are encouraged to contact their local Primary Care service should they have any concerns about their child.

The region is working to address service provision. This includes development of partnerships between acute hospitals and community partners to provide graduate nurses with opportunity for a clinical rotation to the community and also to initiate a similar opportunity for experienced registered nurses working within hospitals. This development is in its infancy but is one of a number of measures which will improve the Public Health Nursing workforce into the future. In addition, the Department of Health has allocated 6 whole time equivalent (WTE) Community Nursing posts with priority allocation to the three areas where there are currently high pressures (Dublin South City, Dublin West, Dublin South-West). Immediate progress is being made to expedite appointments to these posts.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Brian Kearney**  
Head of Primary Care  
Dublin South City & West, Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow Integrated Healthcare Areas, HSE Dublin & Midlands