



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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20th March 2025

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

PQ 10512/25 To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that the Civil Registration Service online appointment booking system requests that interpreters be present for any language other than English, despite the official status of the Irish language; if she will confirm that appointments can be conducted in Irish without interpretation; if she will confirm that Irish sign language will be fully facilitated, without expense, for those choosing to use Irish sign language; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Ruth Coppinger

Dear Deputy Coppinger,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 10512/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Competency in speaking Irish is not a pre-requisite for staff working in the Civil Registration Services and therefore service users who wish to have their appointment conducted in Irish must indicate their requirement, in advance of the appointment to agree arrangements for same. Where staff are not fluent in Irish an interpreter may be required. Where the use of Irish Sign Language will be required this must be indicated in advance of the appointment to agree arrangements for same.

The cost of interpretation is borne by the service as it is considered an integral part of the service being provided and protects both the service provider and the service user. Service users are not expected to bear the cost of an interpreter for Irish or any other language.

I trust this is of assistance.

Maeve Raeside
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration