



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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26th March 2025

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

PQ 14199/25 To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of the change to HSE-supplied pull-ups and the concerns surrounding their reduced size, quality, absorbency, and suitability for children with disabilities; if she will instruct her Department to ensure that pull-ups provided are fit for the needs of the children that use them; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 14199/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The provision and distribution of continence products across the Health Regions is provided for by two national contracts. One for the provision of the continence products, and the second for their distribution. These contracts are governed by a service level agreement between the individual companies and the HSE. These agreements set out the terms for the administration and management of the supply and distribution of these products. During the lifetime of a contract, new products cannot be added unless as a replacement to a current product which can no longer be sourced from the manufacturer. The current supplier recently changed two of the children's pull-ups due to a change in the manufactured product to accommodate; larger waist sizes, a faster absorption rate and make them less visible under clothing.

If a contracted product is unsuitable for a client from a clinical perspective, local clinical staff may approve an off-contract product, provided such products are covered under GMS. This is a clinical decision considered on a case by case basis.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration