



Limistéar Sláinte Comhtháite Bhaile Átha Cliath Chathair Theas & Thiar,  
Bhaile Átha Cliath Thiar Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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08/10/2025

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 45692/25** To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the cessation of child developmental checks under the National Healthy Childhood Programme in Dublin mid-west due to staff shortages in the public health nurse network; the areas in the constituency that remain impacted; the actions being taken to ensure a full service; when a full service will be reinstated; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

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Dear Deputy, Ó Broin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to 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 Public Health Nursing Service across Dublin South West and Dublin South City and West are experiencing a significant shortage of Public Health Nurses and Community Registered General Nurses. Due to staff shortages, some areas are currently operating at a Priority 1 (P1) service level in accordance with the National Caseload Prioritisation Procedure for the PHN Service and therefore, unfortunately, are unable to conduct all scheduled developmental checks. The health centres across Community Healthcare Networks of Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathfarnham Knocklyon and Ballyboden, East Tallaght and Firhouse, West Tallaght and Rathcoole have moved some caseloads to P1 status.

A number of measures are progressing to support increased intake to the Student Public Health Nursing programme. 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. As part of the 2025 budget allocation, provision has been made to recruit an additional 6 whole-time equivalent posts for the region, and these positions will be allocated across these areas. These positions have been funded to support the community nursing service to meet their targets particularly in the area of child health. Despite these additional staffing it is important to note that PHNs are primarily recruited through a sponsorship program.

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**  
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Dublin South City & West, Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow Integrated Healthcare Areas, HSE Dublin & Midlands