



23rd April 2024

Deputy Jackie Cahill  
Houses of the Oireachtas  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**REF: PQ Reference 16509/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on maternity leave cover for a Speech and Language Therapist working in the Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, Co. Tipperary and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise that due to the HSE recruitment pause, it was not possible to progress the backfill for the maternity leave of Speech and Language Therapist in Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. However, a level of service is being provided to Community Hospital of the Assumption, by a Senior Speech and Language Therapist from Primary Care with specific focus on dysphagia.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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**Sheila Ryan,**  
**General Manager, Older Persons Residential Services**