



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Primary Care  
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare  
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 KDC2  
Email: cho7.pqreps@hse.ie Tel: (045) 882 597

29/04/2024

Deputy Mark Ward  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 16903/24**

To ask the Minister for Health what measures are in place to contact parents and advise them that their newborn children are not receiving their developmental checks in Dublin mid-west due to a lack of public health nurses in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

---

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 Health Service Executive can confirm that the Public Health Nursing Service in Dublin Mid-West is experiencing a significant shortage of Public Health Nurses, Community Registered Nurses, Healthcare Assistants, and Clinical Nurse Specialists. There has been detailed planning of work at site-specific levels to proactively manage staff retirements, staff transfers, staff vacancies, maternity leave, and sick leave (short and long term) on front-line services. . The service is currently awaiting approval to progress recruitment campaigns, due to the current pause on recruitment in the HSE

Unfortunately, the staff shortages have meant that some areas have moved to a Priority 1 (P1) service as per the National Caseload Prioritisation Procedure for the PHN Service. This means that some services will not be provided, and this includes developmental checks. Parents are advised of this at the first visit. They are provided with a letter outlining the current situation and of the resources available on the HSE Website at MyChild.ie, such as the My Pregnancy and My Child Books. The service is also triaging phone messages daily from parents who may have a concern regarding their child.

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, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare