



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
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15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Ó Snodaigh,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 13399/24 -To ask the Minister for Health what measures are taken in the case of a vacancy in a local public health nurse's position to address a backlog which has built up when the new person is put in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Aengus Ó Snodaigh**

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Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 13399/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Public Health Nurses are healthcare professionals who provide a range of nursing services in the community. The service aims to be one of quality and responsive to patient's needs, placing community based services as the central focus of patient needs.

In recent years, the recruitment and retention of Public Health Nurses, remains a challenge. Where shortfalls arise, we work to ensure that services are focused on identifying and supporting patients who have the greatest need and by enabling staff to be deployed where necessary to support these patients. HSE management work in conjunction with the local areas to monitor the performance and address issues as they arise.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations