



Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail, Iarthar, Ceanncheathrú N. Muire,  
Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F23 HP58.  
T. 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

**Head of Primary Care Services**  
Community Healthcare West, St. Mary's HQ, Castlebar, Co Mayo F23 HP59  
T. 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Claire Kerrane  
Sinn Féin TD for Galway/Roscommon  
Bridge Street  
Ballinasloe  
Co Galway

**RE: PQ 34430/24**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the reason for cancellations of child health and developmental checks carried out by public health nurse services in community healthcare west; given the importance of such checks and interventions, especially during a child's early development; and if he will make a statement on the matter”**

Dear Deputy Kerrane

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 wish to reassure you that Primary Care recognise the absolute importance of child health and development checks carried out by our Public Health Nursing Department. However, unfortunately, there are occasions due to unfilled staff vacancies and increasing caseload that we have to prioritise service delivery.

This occurred in the Mountbellew Areas 4 and 5 (Galway) and these areas are currently in Prioritisation. This means that certain activities may be delayed. This prioritisation will be reviewed mid-September with an exit plan scheduled for end September. Our Public Health Nursing colleagues are currently completing a full review of backlogs.

Roscommon Public Health Nursing do not routinely cancel child health clinics. In exceptional circumstances when a Public Health Nurse cannot facilitate a clinic due to sick leave or other unscheduled events, all efforts are made by Public Health Nursing Management to allocate another staff member with the required skills to carry out the clinic in line with the National Health Childhood Programme.

I am not aware of cancellations of child development clinics in Mayo. All child health developmental assessments are being carried out by the PHN's in line with the National Healthy Childhood programme.

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

Yours sincerely



*M Warde*

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**Mary Warde**  
**Head of Primary Care Services**  
**Galway, Mayo & Roscommon**