Mr. Brian Carroll

[housingadmin@SDUBLINCOCO.ie](mailto:housingadmin@SDUBLINCOCO.ie)

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.   
Our Ref: DES-CU-03380-2020

Dear Mr. Carroll,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Joe McHugh TD in relation to the Frontloaded Allocation Model for Special Needs Assistants.

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis the Frontloaded Allocation Model for Special Needs Assistants which was to allocate SNA’s to school for the 2020/21 school year in mainstream classes in primary and post -primary schools has been deferred until the beginning of the 2021/22 school year. As an interim temporary measure, arrangements have been put in place that will facilitate continuity and certainty for schools, SNAs and parents.

Schools have been notified of the arrangements for the allocation of SNA support in respect of students in mainstream classes for 2020/21. The arrangements include the following provisions:

2019/20 mainstream class SNA allocations will be frozen, from the date of issue of Circular 0030/2020, and will automatically rollover into the 2020/21 school year. This means that no school will receive an allocation less than that which they have on the date of issue of this Circular and existing SNAs currently in standard SNA posts can continue in these posts for the next school year in the normal way.

Schools may apply to the NCSE for additionality where they can demonstrate that the current allocation does not meet additional care needs within the mainstream classes in the school. Applications for additionality arising from significant new or emerging additional care needs, which cannot be catered within existing allocations, will be dealt with by way of an exceptional review process.

A diagnosis of a disability, or a psychological or other professional report, will not be necessary for this process.

The role of the SNA to support the care needs of students in mainstream classes, as set out in Circular 0030/2014, remains unchanged.

It is expected that schools will review and reprioritise the deployment of SNAs within mainstream settings and allocate resources to ensure those with the greatest level of need receive the greatest level of support. Providing access to SNA support continues to be based on primary care needs as outlined in DES Circular 0030/2014.

Detailed information on the NCSE exceptional review process is published on the NCSE website [www.ncse.ie](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncse.ie%2F&data=02%7C01%7Chousingadmin%40sdublincoco.ie%7Cd7cf2538a6404299265508d80ed88ae1%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637275672057048812&sdata=T04bwB3tryxayg0mypbs9Vn7G49AZi7VR3BZ2Injg4E%3D&reserved=0).

Yours sincerely;

Derek Newcombe

Private Secretary

Dear Minister,

At the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting of the 25th May 2020, the following Motion was agreed:

“That this Area Committee write to the Department of Education seeking immediate action to redress the shortfall of additional needs support in schools in this LEA. We ask also that the Department respond to this Area Committee giving their view as to the needs and challenges facing schools in the LEA’s in Dublin 24.

Parents, teachers and advocacy groups have all expressed concern at the potential impact of the NCSE (National Council for Special Education) plan to frontload SNA provision based on existing provisions rather than existing needs.

We call on the Department to engage in a fulsome discussion with schools regarding the shortfall in services, how that gap is to be closed and how we best develop inclusiveness and opportunity within education.”

I would be obliged to receive your response at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Regards,

Brian Carroll, Staff Officer,

Administration & Budgetary Control,

Housing, Social & Community Development Department

[bcarroll@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:bcarroll@sdublincoco.ie)

Ph: 01 414000 Ext 2246

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**Cuimhnigh ar an timpeallacht, le do thoil, sula gcuireann tú an ríomhphost seo i gcló.**