



Mary Lou McDonald TD
Uachtarán Shinn Féin



Sinn Féin

Micheál Martin T.D
Party Leader
Fianna Fáil
Leinster House
Dublin 2

08 February 2019

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Micheál, a chara,

The National Children's Hospital spending overrun raises the most serious questions for Government and for you as their partner in confidence and supply.

What has been revealed amounts to failures of governance and accountability at all levels of government.

The position of Minister for Health, Simon Harris is now untenable. He is, as your party states, attempting to "avoid accountability".

The Government claims it was ignorant of the overspend until November 2018.

You claim that you were similarly blindsided in the course of budgetary negotiations and the very lengthy review process of your confidence and supply relationship - a review which included an "indepth review" of individual Government departments.

The scale of ignorance of all parties to Government on a budgetary overrun of at least €450 million is quite extraordinary and demands full explanation and accountability.

An Taoiseach is disingenuous in describing budgetary concerns arising from the overspend as "red herrings".

The truth is that health projects and other infrastructure will be delayed or cancelled as a consequence of this overspend.

An Taoiseach has not alone expressed confidence in his Minister for Health but has claimed that Simon Harris acted correctly.

His position lacks any credibility.

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Brexit represents a fundamental national challenge requiring national political effort. It should not be used by Government, or by you, as a catch-all excuse to tolerate and enable bad Government, incompetence and duplicity.

I invite you to make clear whether you have confidence in Minister Simon Harris and whether you will move or support a confidence motion in the Minister for Health.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Lou McDonald'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Lou McDonald TD