



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

13th October 2020

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 29448/20

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for replacing general practitioners that retire; and the status of the matter with a predicted 700 general practitioners due to retire within the next couple of years; his views in particular on the ongoing crisis in New Ross, County Wexford, in which hundreds of patients have been left without a local doctors service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The HSE continues to be committed to maintaining GP Services and has committed to investing in new service developments in the recent agreement between the Department of Health and the Irish Medical Organisation. The HSE will continue to replace GPs who retire in line with the agreed procedures to fill all GMS vacancy posts that arise and a replacement GP will be appointed to ensure continuity of care to patients.

In respect to GP Services in New Ross, I can confirm that there are currently no GMS Vacancy posts in this area. I can also confirm that, under the terms of the GMS contract, all doctors have capacity to take on new patients as their lists have not reached capacity under the terms of their GMS contracts.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeanne Hendrick'.

Jeanne Hendrick
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare