

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
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**Re: PQ 16457/21 – Diabetic Service, RHM**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the status of the provision of services and staff for diabetic children at Mullingar Hospital; and if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the hospital has been forced to cease all diabetic paediatric clinics with immediate effect and is no longer in a position to accept new patients due to limited resources.”**

Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the diabetic service in Regional Hospital Mullingar, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that following the resignation of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Paediatric Diabetes (CNSp) in late 2019 the Regional Hospital Mullingar has been actively engaged in two recruitment campaigns to fill this specialist post.

Regional Hospital Mullingar first advertised the position of CNSp on the 20th of December 2019. There was one application received and they were deemed ineligible. The Hospital reverted to their colleagues in the HSE, requesting a campaign to fill the post again. Due to Covid-19 and disruption to normal business, the campaign was delayed and opened to applicants on the 21st of September 2020 with a closing date of October 5th, 2020.

A successful candidate emerged from the second campaign however, unfortunately, the successful candidate is unable to take up duty at the Regional Hospital Mullingar until 2022. In the meantime, a temporary campaign to fill this vacancy went live on Wednesday 24th March 2021.

The Paediatric Diabetic Service at Regional Hospital Mullingar was suspended from the week starting the 1st of February 2021 pending the successful recruitment of the CNSp.

In order to get the service re-opened, the Ireland East Hospital Group was granted funding for an ANP Candidate to the Paediatric Diabetes Service and that competition is active as of Tuesday 23rd March 2021. Assuming a successful outcome to this recruitment campaign, the service will reopen by the end of April.



The Hospital has further advised that, all children requiring urgent care will be treated as they normally would through Regional Hospital Mullingar's Emergency Department. Children on the current list for follow up will receive prescriptions as required. The Clinical Lead Paediatric Consultant, Professor Michael O'Grady, will review and address any issues or questions from parents as they arise, including referral to the National Children's Hospital if under the age of 16, if deemed necessary. Children over the age of 16 are treated in the Regional Hospital Mullingar's adult service. Until the position is filled, any new entrants to the service will be referred to the National Children's Hospital.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery