



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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8th February, 2024

Deputy Smith
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 53542/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline how each individual CHO funds interpreting services in GPs; and if he plans to improve access to interpreters in GPs by establishing a central service for use across all CHOs.

-Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 53542/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Office for Government Procurement (OGP) has established a procurement framework for Interpretation services. This will be utilised by the HSE. Funding for interpretation services is devolved to each area either CHO or Hospital Group. The HSE has drafted a standard operating procedure to provide guidance for all staff involved in procuring Interpreter services under OGP Interpretation services Framework which includes GPs. This SOP outlines the process involved in procuring Interpreter services with the framework provider. The SOP is currently awaiting final sign off and will be issued shortly. We are providing training to HSE staff on 'Working with Interpreters' on the 17th of April with an afternoon session is available to staff who undertake assessments and/or deliver therapeutic interventions.

The HSE developed a resource for those planning to use the services of an interpreter which can be found at the link below:

[On Speaking Terms: Good Practice Guidelines for Staff in the Provision of Interpreting Services](#)

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations