



Oifig um Cheannasai Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín,
Ráithín, Luimneach V94 D1W9
Teil: 061 483226

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13th February 2024

Deputy Duncan Smith
Leinster House,
Kildare St., Dublin 2

Re: PQ 53543/23 - "To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant HSE podiatry positions in Co. Clare, by location, in tabular form; and the plans to fill any such vacancies."

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Please see below table which confirms the details of vacant HSE Podiatry posts in Co. Clare at the end of January 2024:

Location	Grade	WTE value
West Clare Network	Staff Grade Podiatrist	1
Chronic Disease Hub (Ennis)	Clinical Specialist	0.5

Prior to the current HSE recruitment pause, the HSE had advertised a number of vacant posts across the Podiatry Services in the Mid West region. However, a number of these campaigns failed to attract expressions of interest from any suitably qualified candidates and positions have remained vacant.

To address gaps in service provision, cross cover is provided where possible. Patients are prioritised based on clinical need and patients categorised as 'urgent' are treated as a priority in an effort to minimise hospital attendance. Concentration on 'urgent' patients has meant longer wait times for patients categorised as needing 'routine' treatment/intervention.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Finucane
General Manager
Primary Care