



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

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
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9th May 2024

Deputy Cathal Crowe
4 Francis St., Ennis
Co. Clare

Re: PQ 18032/24 - "To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline plans his Department has to recruit dentists into the HSE Dental Service so that the huge backlog of children awaiting dental treatment in CHO3 can be addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

I can advise that the HSE Dental Service currently has the following Dental Surgeon vacant posts across the HSE Mid West (CHO3) area:

- General Dental Surgeon – 2.2 WTE
- Snr. Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) – 1 WTE

Unfortunately due to the HSE recruitment pause, the filling of vacant posts across CHO3 could not be progressed. However, notification was received recently, that Dental Services were being exempted from the recruitment pause. Therefore, I can advise that the recruitment process is underway for the following posts, which were approved for filling prior to the pause:

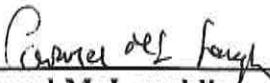
- General Dental Surgeon – 1 WTE
- Snr. Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) – 1 WTE

In relation to the remaining 1.2 WTE General Dental Surgeon posts, I can advise that the approval process is underway for these posts and once this is complete, they will be progressed to the recruitment stage.

It can be anticipated, that if and when these posts are filled and these additional resources are in place, the waiting time for children awaiting dental treatment will reduce. In the meantime, I can advise that I am working with the HSE Dental Service to ensure the contingency plans are in place for service delivery within the resources available to them across CHO3.

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

Yours sincerely,


Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care