



29th May 2024

Mr Duncan Smith, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

PQ 9477/24 *“To ask the Minister for Health for an update on filling the position of a dietician at Swords Health Centre that is currently vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter”* **Duncan Smith, TD**

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There are currently three primary care dietician posts vacant in the Swords Network within Community Healthcare Organisation for Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC). We know the demands are increasingly outstripping capacity regarding access to dietetic and other allied health professional services. Typically circa seventy two dietitians graduate nationally every year, whilst circa three hundred dietitian posts may be advertised. There are ongoing CHO DNCC and national HSE recruitment efforts with a focus on National Dietetics Workforce Planning. There is a rolling campaign for the recruitment of dietitians in the CHO DNCC area, as well as an international recruitment campaign to fill vacant posts which are identified as critical.

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

Yours sincerely,

Julie Ann Gahan
Acting General Manager
Primary Care Dublin North