



Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir

Bloc B, Láirionad Cathrach, An tSráid
Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill Mhantáin, A98 X329.

General Manager Primary Care
Community Healthcare East

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16th February 2024

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re Ref: PQ57184/23:

To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the provision of a 24 hour 7-day per week service for the primary health facility in Arklow and Baltinglass; if this service will be operational in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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 and Children for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

- At present, Primary Care services are provided 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday.
- CareDoc GP out-of-hours (GP OOH) Service operates from 6pm to 8am on weekdays and throughout the weekend 365 days of the year.
- CareDoc provide the GP OOH Service for South Wicklow since 2003.
- Patients access the CareDoc OOH's service via 0818 300 365, and calls are received and triaged in the call assessment centre based in Carlow.
- Patients who require a face to face appointment with a duty Doctor or nurse are given an appointment in the CareDoc treatment centres based in the HSE Arklow and Wicklow Primary Care Centres.
- Mobile units are also based at these centres to deliver home visits as required.
- Whilst the expansion of other Community Health Services to operate a 7 day service is a national objective, no timeframe for implementation is in place at this time.
- To support the public, Community Nursing, Community Intervention Teams & GP OOH all run a 7 day service.
- For your information, Baltinglass falls under CHO7; Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow.

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,

Sinead Kilbride

Sinead Kilbride,

General Manager Wicklow, Primary Care