



Oifig um Cheannasáí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair  
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,  
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín,  
Ráithín, Luimneach V94 D1W9  
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25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Deputy Michael Lowry**  
**Constituency Office**  
**Abbey Road, Thurles**  
**Co. Tipperary**

**Re: PQ 31001/24 - “To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that the Special Needs Dentist who was operating out of Nenagh Hospital has recently left their position and has not been replaced; if the HSE has plans to find a replacement for this critical role, given the importance of Special Needs Dentistry for children who require sedation for dental procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Lowry,

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 Senior Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) post for East Limerick/Nth. Tipperary became vacant in early February 2024 when the postholder who was based at Roxtown Health Centre resigned. Approval to backfill this post was given as Dental Surgeon posts were exempted from the HSE recruitment embargo.

I can advise that the HSE has advertised this post on two occasions since the postholder notified the HSE of their intention to resign. It was first advertised on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with a closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Three applications were received from interested candidates. Of the three applicants, one was deemed eligible for interview. However, the candidate failed to attend for interview. The post was advertised again on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with a closing date of the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This campaign attracted no applications.

The Principal Dental Surgeon has advised that there is currently a shortage of Dental Surgeons in both public and private dental services in Ireland. Therefore, it is proving challenging for the HSE to fill vacant Dental Surgeon posts.

I can assure you that I am working closely with the Principal Dental Surgeon in relation to this vacant post. As the new campaign has failed to attract any applications from interested candidates, other options/contingency plans will have to be explored.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Carmel McLaughlin**  
**General Manager**  
**Primary Care**