



Office of the Head of Primary Care  
Services  
Community Health Organisation  
Midlands Louth Meath

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23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Deputy Brian Stanley  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re PQ 31564/24 To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists working in the school dental scheme in Laois and Offaly; the progress being made to improve the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Stanley

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 outlined the position as follows.

There are currently 3.4WTE Dental Surgeons working in the HSE Dental Service in Laois and Offaly. There are vacancies of 2.6WTE General Dental Surgeons in Laois/Offaly with a further 1WTE on long term leave since February 2024. 0.6WTE has been accepted by a candidate from a previous campaign and the paperwork for this is now going through.

The pause on recruitment meant we were unable to recruit since November 2023. However a new recruitment campaign is due to be advertised in August 2024.

The 1WTE Senior Dental Surgeon Administrative post has been unoccupied due to long term leave since February 2024 and this position will become vacant due to resignation from August 2024. The recruitment process for this post has already commenced and a campaign is expected in the coming months.

We have commenced two evening sessions per week in Portlaoise since early July 2024 to catch up on the school waiting list for this area. Two extra daytime sessions per week will commence in Tullamore in August 2024 to catch up on the school waiting list for this area.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Joseph Ruane  
Head of Primary Care Services  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation