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22nd July 2024

Deputy Mattie McGrath, TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 32248/24

To ask the Minister for Health how many children in south Tipperary are waiting for ophthalmology services; and when children will be called for their appointments.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The South Tipperary Ophthalmology Service has recently carried out an audit of its waiting list and the total number of children (aged 0-18 years) of both new and review patients now stands at 2475. There are approximately 60 new child referrals each month.

The length of time for an appointment is variable and is based on clinical need. If deemed urgent, a child will be seen at the next clinic (within 1 week). This is the same for review patients. Routine appointments are resource dependent. Currently, the South Tipperary services operates with the following resources and appointment capacity across all ages:

1.0 WTE	Community Ophthalmic Physician	20 appts x 18 clinics per mth
0.3 WTE	Senior Orthoptist (sessional)	20 appts x 4-6 clinics per mth

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

Yours sincerely,

Paul Goff
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare