



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

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Midlands/Louth/Meath
Community Health Organisation,
HSE Area Office, Arden Road,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 TY28

t
e CHO8.HOPC@hse.ie

22nd July 2024

Deputy Brian Stanley
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ 33296/24 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists working in the school dental scheme in Longford Westmeath; 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 1.8WTE Dental Surgeons, 0.6WTE Senior Dental Surgeon Administrative and 1.0WTE Senior Dental Surgeon Special Needs working in the HSE Dental Service in Longford Westmeath. There is a vacancy of 1.0WTE General Dental Surgeon in Longford Westmeath.

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

One extra evening session per week will commence in Athlone 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,

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