



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

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2nd August 2024

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ 33317/24 – To ask the Minister for Health further to the lifting of the recruitment embargo, if any improvements will be made in respect of the number of specialist orthodontists, consultant orthodontists and orthodontist assistants currently working within HSE dental services in County Louth, for both adults and children, to drive down the unacceptable waiting lists in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Dowd

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.

The vacant 1.0 wte consultant orthodontist post for Louth and Meath was not paused due to the recruitment embargo. This post has been advertised seven times since becoming vacant and the most recent recruitment campaign included Northern Ireland and the UK. There has been no applicants for this post.

The vacant 2.0 wte Specialist Orthodontist posts for Louth, were approved derogation for recruitment in June, the posts have been advertised twice, including adverts in the Belfast Telegraph, British Dental Journal and UK universities and there were no applicants from either campaign. Agency has been approved but to date none of the agency companies have been able to source an orthodontist.

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,

Margaret Kelleher
A/Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation