



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

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)  
[@MLMCommHealth](https://twitter.com/MLMCommHealth)

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

t  
e [CHO8.HOPC@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8.HOPC@hse.ie)

9<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

***Re: PQ 33339/24 - 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 ophthalmologists currently working within HSE 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.

Within the County Louth Ophthalmology Department there are currently 1.0 WTE Community Ophthalmic Physician and 1.0 WTE Orthoptist. There is a vacant 1.0 WTE Optometrist post, which was advertised, interviewed and panelled before current National recruitment controls were embedded

All vacancies are being reviewed in line with the new Pay and Numbers cap for the Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO). Clinical posts, inclusive of this post are been actively examined for approval within this process.

In addition, presently an Ophthalmic Consultant post is being progressed through the NERIECS (North East Regional Integrated Eye Care Service) project.

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 M.J. Kelleher

---

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