

15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Deputy Charlie Flanagan TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 20895/24** - *To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 863 of 31 March 2021, to outline when children's eye clinic services will resume in Portlaoise, having been relocated to Athlone during Covid-19 due to unavailability of facilities To ask the Minister for Health, further to Parliamentary Question 16337/21, to outline when Children Eye Clinic services will resume in Portlaoise having been relocated to Athlone during Covid 19 due to unavailability of facilities; and If he will make a statement on the matter. ' and I submitted the previous PQ reply for reference and if he will make a statement on the matter*

Dear Deputy Flanagan

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise is currently providing an Outreach Eye Clinic for its patients in Athlone. HSE Midlands (CHO8) is at the early stages of transferring the Ophthalmology Services in the Midlands from the Acute Hospitals and into Community Services. A location has been identified in Portlaoise, with planning and associated works expected to be completed late 2024/early 2025 and work is ongoing to operationalise the service to cater for patients in the Midlands region. New development Consultant Ophthalmologist post in conjunction with RVEEH has been approved for funding to support provision in the community recruitment process at early stage.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours Sincerely



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**Mr Trevor O' Callaghan**  
Chief Executive Officer