



Phríomhoifigeach na nOibríochtaí,
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Deputy Pearse Doherty,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

5th June, 2024.

PQ Number 22914/24

“To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the appointment of dermatology consultants at Letterkenny University Hospital and Sligo University Hospital; the stage the recruitment process is at; the timeframe for when consultants are to be place if they are not already; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Pearse Doherty

Dear Deputy Doherty,

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 the following outlines the position.

The model for Dermatology care in the Northwest has always been a service based from Sligo University Hospital (SUH) and this remains the case.

Saolta University Health Care Group secured funding for two new consultant dermatology posts for the Northwest and Letterkenny University Hospital management have identified a requirement that the appointment of these posts would deliver two clinics per week in Letterkenny, i.e., 10 hours commitment to LUH on a weekly basis.

Extensive recruitment campaigns have been underway for these posts. These campaigns remain ongoing in an effort to try to fill the posts. The two posts were advertised together in early January 2024. To date no applicants applied for either of the posts since January 2024. The National Recruitment Service (NRS) have extended the advertisement for these posts by a further 3 weeks on an on-going basis. The current closing date for the re-advertised posts is Thursday, 20th June 2024. These posts were advertised on Public Jobs, HSE website and in the BMJ.

Dermatology is a challenging specialty nationally. It is one of the three priority high volume specialties in the Waiting List Action Plan.

In order to address the waiting lists for dermatology patients, Saolta is utilising all available outsourcing capacity via HSE funded streams which include Dermview, Kingsbridge Belfast/Derry and most recently through outsourcing to the Bons Secours hospital in Galway. We have also issued a tender for Clinical Insourcing companies which closed recently. This will deliver activity for patients in their own hospital facilities where possible.



I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Cosgrove', written in a cursive style.

Ann Cosgrove,
Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group.