



22nd November 2024

Deputy Ged Nash
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ 44392/24- To ask the Minister for Health, the number of children awaiting an appointment to see an Ophthalmologist under the Drogheda Primary Care Centre up to 1st October 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Ged Nash

Dear Deputy Nash,

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.

We do not have a waiting list for Drogheda Primary Care Centre ophthalmologist due to our ophthalmologist working out of Dundalk Primary Care. The Ophthalmology waiting list in Dundalk is as follows;

Waiting List figures Ophthalmology Louth - Sept 2024

Dundalk W/L Ophthalmologist NEW patients (Dundalk / Drogheda children)	153
Dundalk Optometrist NEW	13
Dundalk Orthoptist NEW	29
Dundalk Optometrist REVIEW	846
Dundalk Orthoptist REVIEW	260

We have 1.0 wte vacant Optometrist post which was vacant prior to the recent recruitment pause. All vacancies are being reviewed in line with the new Pay and Numbers cap for the Community Healthcare Organisation. It is not possible to estimate a timeframe for an appointment at this time. The Orthoptist is currently on Maternity Leave until June 2025.



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Ruane', written in a cursive style.

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