



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

Head of Service, Primary Care
Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal
Leitrim Monaghan Sligo
HSE, An Clochar, College Street,
Ballyshannon, Co Donegal, F94 TPX4

www.hse.ie @hselive

t: 071 9834627 | 071 9834637

e: HOSPC.CHO1@hse.ie

20th January, 2025

Deputy Matt Carthy
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 1366/25

To ask the Minister for Health the dental services available to persons with disabilities in County Monaghan; the reason such dental services are no longer available in Monaghan Hospital; if there are plans to re-introduce this service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Carthy

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 for the Cavan Monaghan Integrated Healthcare Area as follows.

As of September 2023 no Dental Service has been provided in Monaghan General Hospital. A new facility located in the North Monaghan Primary Care Centre, represents a significant milestone in the HSE's efforts to expand access to high quality oral healthcare to all eligible patient cohorts in Monaghan. This new state-of-the-art dental clinic represents our commitment to providing the highest standard of dental treatment to the children of Monaghan aged up to 16 years and to our special care patients who cannot easily access oral healthcare elsewhere. The Dental clinic incorporates four new dental surgeries fitted with the latest advancements in technology to provide patient centred care.

With regard to patients with disabilities and those with other special care needs, the Senior Dental Surgeon who provides dental care for patients with special care needs in Cavan Monaghan is currently not available for clinical duties. As much as is possible contingency plans have been put in place. Dental Staff are routinely redeployed across the two counties with the General Dental Surgeon team in Cavan Monaghan providing care for special care patients. This includes dental treatment provided under general anaesthesia.

Significant effort has been made by the service management to increase staff numbers in Cavan Monaghan Dental Services particularly in special care. Due to this increase in demand for oral health care for adults and children with special care needs, the Dental Services Management will continue to seek additional staff through the annual estimates process.

HSE Cavan Monaghan Dental Services are fully committed to providing oral health care to all eligible patients, however it is important to note that the service must be delivered within the resource allocation and funding available, with the level of activity and associated costs being managed in a way that ensures people with the greatest need are supported within the overall expenditure of the delivery of services while not exceeding the available funding allocated. The



service is continuing to examine opportunities to prioritise recruitment to the above grades in this context and in order to respond to the needs of the population.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mandy Doyle'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mandy Doyle
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall Liatroim Muineachán Sligeach

Head of Service, Primary Care
Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo