



Oifig an Straitéis Chúraim Phríomha agus an Phleanála
Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta
HSE, Urlár 2, Páirc Ghnó Samhail, Model Farm Road, Corcaigh
Tel: 021-4928512 R: primarycare.strategy@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director Primary Care
Strategy and Planning
HSE, Floor 2, Model Business Park, Model Farm Road, Cork
Tel: 021-4928512 Email: primarycare.strategy@hse.ie

7th February 2020

Deputy Stephen Donnelly, T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your Parliamentary Question below which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

PQ 50588/19; To ask the Minister for Health the number of salaried general practitioners employed by the HSE to provide general medical services to patients with medical cards and GP visit cards at present; if such doctors are direct HSE employees as distinct from employees of general practitioners' practices from GMS contract holders; if so, the salary grades and details; and if they qualify for public service pensions and pay the pension levy. -Stephen Donnelly

The Programme for Partnership Government (2016) promotes the enhancement of primary care recognising that it needs to build GP capacity to respond to patients needs and provide access to safe, timely care, as close to patients' homes as possible. It recognises that to guarantee the future sustainability of rural practice and in disadvantaged urban areas that proposals to support GP practices are required. It states that 'the HSE will be mandated to employ GPs on a salaried basis where needed and put in place support structures and staff'.

To date the position of salaried GP and arrangements in relation to the employment of GP's by the HSE have not been put in place in a standardised way. In a very limited number of situations, at specific points in time, arrangements have been put in place to cover a capitation panel amount payment, so as to maintain GP services in remote rural locations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley'.

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Primary Care Strategy and Planning**