



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An
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27th January 2020

Mr. Robert Troy T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 50713/19

To ask the Minister for Health if he will reinstate funding to recommence the monthly chiropody clinic at Ballymore, County Westmeath. -Robert Troy

Dear Deputy Troy,

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 outline the position as follows.

The HSE now provide a Podiatry services rather than a Chiropody service. The criteria for referral to Podiatry is patients with a 'High Risk Foot' as defined in the HSE Model of Care for the Diabetic Foot document

Podiatry Services are available in Longford/ Westmeath to Diabetics upon referral from a health professional. In addition persons attending Day Services in some areas can access Podiatry Services. Also a number of Social Services Councils throughout Westmeath and Longford have arrangements for the provision of Podiatry Services through receipt of Section 39 grants. Ballymore Social Services were provided with funding from 2009 to 2012 for the Chiropody Services, however, I understand that this funding ceased as there were no suitably qualified persons available to continue the service.

There has been no additional funding provided to the HSE to enter in to any new Section 39 arrangements in the current year and accordingly the HSE will not be in a position to reinstate the funding to Ballymore Social Services in 2020. However, please note that the provision of podiatry services in the Midlands is under review at present with a view to ensuring that those most in need of the service can access same. Your request will be taken in to consideration as part of that review.

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,

Pat Bennett
Chief Officer CHO Area 8