



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Deputy Sean Fleming, T.D.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin,

1st February, 2019

RE: PQ ref 4213/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting lists for eye appointments including outpatients, inpatients and procedures to be carried out in County Laois; the number of doctors that are working in same in County Laois; and if he will make a statement on the matter"

Dear Deputy Fleming,

I refer to the above PQ, and wish to advise that a total of 1,518 patients are awaiting an Ophthalmology outpatient appointment in the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise.

One Consultant Ophthalmologist from the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, attends the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise one day per week. The Community Ophthalmic Physician position remains unfilled despite a number of Recruitment campaigns, both local and national. In addition, the Hospital is in constant contact with Recruitment Agencies in an attempt to fill this position in a temporary capacity, pending the permanent filling of the position.

Every effort has been made to source a Community Ophthalmic Physician. However, the overall shortage of suitable qualified Community Ophthalmic Physicians nationally has impacted on our ability to fill this position.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,


Michael Knowles
General Manager