



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
Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

t: 057 9359787/774

f: 057 9358065

e: CHO8@hse.ie

Office of Mr. Pat Bennett,
Chief Officer, Midlands Louth
Meath Community Health
Organisation, Health Service
Executive, Area Office, Arden
Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

t: 057 9359787/774

f: 057 9358065

e: CHO8@hse.ie

2nd July, 2019

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

Re: Parliamentary Question – 25269/19

To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to address the shortage of general practitioner services at Ballymore health centre, County Westmeath (details supplied) -Robert Troy

(Details) - The clinic mentioned is currently operating an irregular service at this facility and patients are mainly expected to attend appointments at Ballymahon Health Centre which is over 8 miles away.

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 Health Centre, Ballymore is a satellite health centre, whereby a part-time weekly general practitioner (GP) service is provided. Full-time, comprehensive general practitioner services are provided by GP, in main centre of practice in Ballymahon, which is a purpose built facility.

GP continues to provide a regular service in Ballymore Health Centre and is not diverting patients to Ballymahon. The exception to this is, on occasion, patients may be requested to attend at the Ballymahon practice for a limited number of specific procedures, which cannot be provided in Ballymore, to enable patients to be treated appropriately.

In addition, there is a national GP manpower shortage and this has impacted on the ability to source locum GPs. If difficulties occasionally arise in securing locum cover, it may not possible to run the regular surgery in Ballymore Health Centre. All patients are offered an appointment in Ballymahon.

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