



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Príomhoifigeach ECSP Ceantar 8  
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin  
Oifig an Cheantair  
Bóthar an Ardáin  
An Tulach Mhór  
Co Uíbh Fhailí

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20<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

Deputy Gerry Adams  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Adams,

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.

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. Due to staffing resources it has not been possible to respond sooner. The HSE has endeavored to provide responses to the majority of your queries, however further statistical information is currently being gathered to respond in full. Mr. Billy Standish, Primary Care Manager for the North East can arrange to meet with you and brief you further if you feel this would be of assistance. Please contact his office on 046 9076471/9076437 or contact him by email at [billy.standish@hse.ie](mailto:billy.standish@hse.ie) to arrange same.

**PQ 26342/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of newly qualified general practitioners that took up work in County Louth in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date in 2019.**

The number of qualified practitioners that took up work in County Louth in each of the years is:

2016	2
2017	1
2018	1
2019	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

**PQ 26339/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of general practitioners due to retire in County Louth within the next three years.**

This information is currently being compiled and will be forwarded in due course.

**PQ 26345/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical card patients, general practitioner only card patients and private patients waiting to secure a place with a registered general practitioner service in County Louth.**

We do not have a record of private patients registered with GP's in any county. This information has never been collected by the HSE. With regard to medical card patient numbers this information is currently being gathered and will be forwarded in due course.

**PQ 26346/19: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of general practitioners that will be required in County Louth over the next five years to keep pace with the expected rise in demand based on the best information available; and his plans in place to address same.**

The HSE are working to increase the number of GP in all counties. The HSE have developed the North East Training scheme into the largest GP training scheme in the country in an attempt to increase the number of GP's. Trained GP's are encouraged to take positions in the North East but are not obliged to do so. A reasonable percentage remain with us but some go to other regions and some regrettably leave the country, which we acknowledge is a significant problem. The HSE are confident the new GMS agreement secured with the IMO will encourage GP's to set up in practice. The market generally dictates where the GP's will set up and new practices are likely to open in the larger towns. The HSE encourage all practices to expand at every opportunity. The feedback from GP's is very positive in the North East, Louth included, in relation to the new GMS agreement.

**PQ 26347/19: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that general practitioner surgeries in County Louth are at capacity and unable to accept new patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The HSE acknowledges that some practices are closed to new patients. Any patient that cannot get a GP in a practice of their choice after making three attempts can be assigned to a GP with capacity for new patients in a matter of days. As far as the HSE are aware the small number of patients that have requested assignment have all secured a GP and no patient is without a GP. We are not in a position to comment on private patients.

**PQ 26341/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of new general practitioner practices opened in County Louth in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date in 2019.**

2016	2
2017	1
2018	1
2019	None to date
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

The information in the table above is currently being verified and any changes will be notified to you in due course.

Generally existing practices are more likely to expand rather than new practices opening. The new GP agreement will benefit patients and make general practice a more attractive career option for doctors. The new agreement includes funding to develop practices and the services they provide.

**PQ 26343/19: To ask the Minister for Health the average number of patients per general practitioner in County Louth; if there is a cap on the number of patients each general practitioner can treat; and the number of general practitioner services that exceed this average.**

The average GMS patient numbers are currently being identified and will be forwarded to you in due course. The maximum amount of GMS patients a GP can treat is 2,200. This can be, on occasion, adjusted upwards with local agreement.

**PQ 26338/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of general practitioners registered and operational in County Louth; and the number of such practices operational in County Louth.**

There is 65 GP's registered in County Louth. In total there are 40 practices currently operational.

**PQ 26340/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of general practitioners that retired from practice in County Louth in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and the number of these vacancies filled for each year respectively.**

2016	3
2017	1
2018	2
2019	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

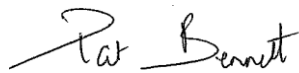
All vacancies were filled.

**PQ 26344/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical card patients, general practitioner only card patients and private patients registered with a general practitioner service in County Louth.**

We do not have a record of private patients registered with GP's in any county. With regard to medical card patient numbers this information is currently being gathered and will be forwarded in due course.

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,



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Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation