



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An
Mhí
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11th July, 2019

Mr. Peter Burke TD
Blackhall Place,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath

Re: Parliamentary Question – 26461/19

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the recruitment of an audiologist for County Westmeath
-Peter Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

There are currently 3 vacant positions in the Midlands area, one Staff Grade Post in Paediatrics and two Senior posts one of which is an Adult Post and one a Paediatric Post. The Staff Grade Post has been offered out to a number of candidates on the HSE Basic Grade Panel, however, no one has accepted the post. All posts have been submitted for derogation to the National Director under the new cost containment measures and a response is awaited. Prior to this CV's were requested from two locum agencies in Ireland and two locum agencies in the UK, however, no suitable candidates came forward from this exercise. Private Audiologists were also offered sessional work but no private audiologists had taken up the offer prior to the more recent budgetary restrictions, which now prohibits such a remedial plan.

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
Midlands Louth Meath CHO