



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784100

3rd December 2019

Mr. John McGuinness TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 48872/19

To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to meet the demand for general practitioner services in counties Carlow and Kilkenny with many persons unable to access them on a regular basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The HSE is committed to maintaining GP numbers in counties Carlow and Kilkenny to ensure that the people living in this area have access to GP Services. There are no current GMS vacancies in either county.

GPs manage their own practices and determine how many patients they can safely care for within their practice. GPs make their own decision to close off panels when they reach a certain limit – particularly the single handed GP, where they may not be in a position to manage a large panel of GMS patients (in addition to a private practice). The HSE has scope to assign medical card patients only to a doctor.

Should you have any further queries in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare