

Community Healthcare West serving Galway, Mayo and Roscommon Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim Cúram Sláinte Phobail, Iarthar, Ceanncheathrú N. Muire, Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F23 HP58. T: 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

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7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Deputy Eugene Murphy Elphin St. Strokestown Co. Roscommon

PQ: 39643/19

To ask the Minister for Health if some of the workload from the local health office in Ballinasloe, County Galway will be allocated to health offices in west County Galway or Galway city on an interim basis in order to clear the backlog of applications awaiting approval under the HSE Community Ophthalmic Services Scheme for Medical Card patients, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise that the vacant Clerical Administration position, Community Ophthalmic Service (Adult Eye Testing Scheme) in Ballinasloe Health Centre, Co. Galway was filled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019. Priority is being given to processing the backlog of applications. The Galway office is assisting with this process.

Please be advised that if a client has a current medical card and requires approval under the scheme urgently for medical reasons, they can be advised to contact Ballinasloe Health Centre directly at 09096-46200.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Frank Murphy

Head of Primary Care

Community Healthcare West