



18th December 2020

Deputy James Browne, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 44237/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 596 of 8 December 2020, the position regarding the creation of MDTs in CHO 6, 7 and 9; the position regarding recruitment and appointment of optometrists, orthoptists and other support staff to deliver care in these teams; the locations of the MDTs; the anticipated delivery time-frame; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology Model of Eye Care (2017) and the HSE Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report (2017) set out a clear blueprint for the delivery of eye care services. This blueprint includes the implementation of integrated eye care teams working across the hospital groups and community healthcare organisations (CHOs). These teams include Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Orthoptists, Nurses and Technicians. Additional funding has been provided in CHO 6, 7 and 9 to establish integrated eye care teams. New posts have been recruited in CHO 6, 7 and 9 and further recruitment is ongoing. Teams are working in Primary Care centres in Grangegorman, Kilnamanagh Tymon and Churchtown amongst others, with plans for additional locations under development. Work is ongoing to establish teams across other hospitals/CHOs nationally.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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**Anne Horgan**  
General Manager