



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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**COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8**

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6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Deputy Darren O'Rourke  
Dáil Éireann  
Lenister House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 3506/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the details of general practice services in Kells, County Meath; the number of general practitioners providing care to persons with medical cards; the details of proposals to address the shortage of general practitioners in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Darren O'Rourke**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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.

Kells currently has five full time GMS GPs with an additional two full time GMS GPs outside the town, but still addressed as the Kells area.

A long standing GP retired on the 31st March, but his replacement was in situ prior to his departure. This new GP has set up her own practice in the town and reports from patients have been very positive.

We previously had to move a small panel of patients from the Kells area to Navan as we had no alternative solution at the time (A GP retired and the successful replacement decided to leave also). But after 3 months, through an Expression of Interest request, we have secured a GP in the Kells area to reinstate the panel to Kells. This particular panel is also attached to a Nursing Home in the area so we are delighted to have a local GP back at the helm.

We were also contacted by a long standing GP to say he has employed a non-GMS GP assistant therefore allowing him more scope to take on additional patients.

Population of Kells as per the 2016 census is 6135.

In line with the GMS contract, each GP can have a max of 2200 GMS patients (plus additional private patients). Currently, none of the GPs in Kells or surrounding area are at the max number permitted.

All of this is very positive for Kells and the surrounding area.

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 Community Health Organisation