



Office of the Head of Operations Primary Care, Community Operations  
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8  
Tel: 01-6352682 Email: community.primarycare@hse.ie

Oifig Ceann na n-Oibríochtaí, Cúraim Phríomhúil, Oibríochtaí Pobail  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8  
T 01 6352682 R: community.primarycare@hse.ie

25<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Deputy Carol Nolan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 4530/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if more timely access will be ensured for persons awaiting outpatient ophthalmic services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Carol Nolan**

---

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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

The Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report was launched in June 2017. The Report sets out the current levels of service, models of service provision and the consultation process undertaken with patients, advocates, ophthalmic staff and representative bodies. It also highlights the limitations of the current model of service delivery and sets out the way forward for a significant amount of eye services to be delivered in a Primary Care setting. The report estimates that 60% of existing outpatient activity could be moved to the community thus enabling hospital services to focus on patients who require more specialist diagnostics or treatments. The National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology has developed a model of care which details how the re-alignment of eye services from the acute hospitals to the community will be undertaken. The recommendations from the PCESRG Report also complement the Model of Care.

Funding of €1M was made available on a recurrent basis in 2017 to progress the development of eye services in the Dublin areas. To date implementation of the Report has focused on establishing paediatric eye care teams in CHOs 6 & 7 as well as expanding the paediatric eye care team in CHO 9. These teams would include ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, nurses and technicians. Once established, they can take on the management of many eye conditions from acute ophthalmology services.

Implementation is also focusing on exploring the rollout of the Community Ophthalmic Services Scheme to children over 8 years in order to reduce waiting lists for primary eye care teams/community ophthalmic physicians.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Pp

---

Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations