



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

25th May 2020

Deputy Carol Nolan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 4532/20 *To ask the Minister for Health if his Department will work with an organisation (details supplied) to ensure the eye clinic liaison officers are in the right place at the right time across major eye clinics by helping patients maintain independence and well-being whilst reducing the burden on ophthalmologists and clinic based staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.* -Carol Nolan

Details Supplied: the NCBI

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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 understand that the NCBI secured one off grant support (70k) from the Acute Hospital Division in late 2018 to co-locate an ECLO with ophthalmology teams in the Ireland East Hospital Group's Mater University Hospital and Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. The NCBI chose to provide an ECLO service one day at CHI Temple Street also. An ECLO provide patients and their families with timely, practical and emotional support to understand their diagnosis, deal with their loss of sight and maintain their independence, whilst role-releasing clinicians to focus on treatment and complex cases.

I am advised that responses to date from patients and hospital eye clinic teams where the ECLOs were piloted have been overwhelmingly positive.

As this initiative was funded on a once-off basis, any proposal to extend the initiative would need to be considered as part of the estimates process for 2021. A business case should be submitted for the consideration of the Ireland East Hospital Group in the first instance and if supported, could be submitted to Acute Strategy and Planning in the HSE for consideration as a new development within the overall estimates process for 2021.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Ivory
General Manager, Acute Operations