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**1st May 2020**

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
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Dublin 2  
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**Re: PQ 4766/20 – Diabetes Nurse, St Columcille’s**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the reason the diabetes nurse for Loughlinstown health centre has not been replaced; if the post will be filled as soon as possible in order that those in need of the service do not have to go to Balally, County Dublin or Ballywaltrim, County Wicklow which are inaccessible by public transport for persons living in the area; if in the absence of a replacement for the diabetes nurse, these patients will be catered for in St. Columcille’s Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the position of a diabetes nurse in St Columcille’s Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

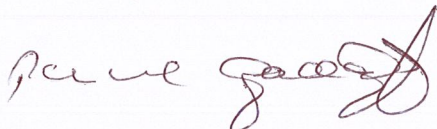
I have had this matter examined and am advised that there are no staff Nurse vacancies in the diabetic day centre at St. Columcille’s Hospital at this time.

A staff nurse from Out Patients Department has been deployed to the Diabetic Day Unit as the Staff nurse is undergoing the Diabetic Diploma course.

Future planning ensures that a third staff nurse will undertake the Diabetic Diploma course during the summer months to ensure succession planning.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery

