



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohifigeach Cliniciúil
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Deputy Marc Ó Cathasaigh, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 18069/21

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the nationwide roll-out of the shared care cataract treatment model which is already in operation in the Sligo region known as the Sligo scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,

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.

Significant planning has been undertaken by the HSE in the last number of years to expand and develop ophthalmology services. This includes the development of integrated eye care teams working across the hospital groups (HGs) and community healthcare organisations (CHOs). These teams include Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Orthoptists, Nurses and Technicians. Working with the surgical service, the teams will deliver pre-operative and post-operative cataract care in the community. The first teams have been established in CHOs 6, 7 and 9. Work is ongoing to establish teams across other hospitals/CHOs nationally. This model is an effective mechanism for the delivery of quality eye care in the HSE.

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

Anne Horgan
General Manager