



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of HR, CHO 1
Donegal; Sligo / Leitrim; Cavan / Monaghan

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Ms Niamh Smyth, TD
Constituency Office
Adelaide Row
Baillieborough
Co Cavan

PQ ref 6662/21

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the allocation of a public health nurse to Killeshandra, County Cavan; if a nurse will be put in place urgently; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Response

I am advised that this specific vacancy arose due to a PHN retirement, at short notice, precipitated by Covid-19 issues. Alternative cover arrangements are in place, including priority one calls being provided by adjoining teams and via additional Community RGN support and cover where available.

Public Health Nursing is a specialist nursing role and conventionally, replacement posts are filled via the PHN sponsorship programme, where the HSE provide financial support, education and training to Nurses interested in pursuing a career as a Public Health Nurse within defined geographical areas. However this requires advance identification of potential vacancies, and for arrangements to be put in place to secure student PHN placements within a national process. In addition, the HSE nationally operate a transfer system, which allows PHN staff to seek relocation to other areas of the country. However, there is no direct recruitment for PHN grades via open competition, which regrettably impedes the rapid replacement of PHN staff.

In the interim, alternative cover arrangements and service provision will be implemented to ensure that services are maintained, and the situation kept under review by the Director of PHN services and her management team, pending filling of this identified vacancy.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Murray
Head of HR, CHO1