

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Deputy Neasa Hourigan T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [neasa.hourigan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:neasa.hourigan@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 9118/21 – Diabetes service, RHM**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the recent cancellation of all paediatric diabetes clinic appointments in the Regional Hospital Mullingar due to ongoing unsafe staffing levels; his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the diabetes service in Regional Hospital Mullingar, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that following the resignation of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Paediatric Diabetes (CNSp) in late 2019 the Regional Hospital Mullingar has been actively engaged in two recruitment campaigns to fill this specialist post. The second campaign has resulted in the appointment of a successful candidate who unfortunately is unable to take up duty at the hospital until 2022. The other campaign is ongoing, Regional Hospital Mullingar and the Ireland East Hospital Group hope to complete this process and appoint someone as soon as possible.

Regrettably, scheduled appointments to the Paediatric Diabetic Service at the hospital have been suspended with effect from 1st February 2021. However, during this period prescriptions will still be available to patients as required and any questions from parents or patients will be addressed. In addition children requiring unscheduled care can be seen in the Hospital's Emergency Department as necessary.

The position of Paediatric Diabetic Nurse is a difficult role to fill given there is only a small number of appropriately qualified and suitably trained nurses within the health services at present.

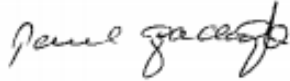
The Ireland East Hospital Group and Regional Hospital Mullingar are actively seeking an alternative solution to allow the service reopen and I assure you this is a priority.



The Management of the Regional Hospital Mullingar would like to apologise to patients and their families for any distress caused at this time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery