



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig Sorcha Mhic Giolla Brídhe  
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An  
Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

☎: 057 9359787/774

✉: [CHO8@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8@hse.ie)

Office of Ms. Sarah McBride,  
Chief Officer, Midlands Louth  
Meath Community Health  
Organisation, Health Service  
Executive, Area Office, Arden  
Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

☎: 057 9359787/774

✉: [CHO8@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8@hse.ie)

24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Questions - 9865/21 & 9866/21**

To ask the Minister for Health the additional staff that will be recruited to address the backlog of primary medical certificate assessments in County Longford & Westmeath; and when the recruitment process will start.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline response as follows.

As a result of an Irish Supreme Ruling in June 2020, the Department of Finance and the Department of Health advised the HSE that all applications and assessments for Primary Medical Certificates had to be paused pending legal clarification of the ruling from the Attorney General's Office. Following the enactment of the Finance Bill 2021, the HSE was advised by the Departments of Health and the Department of Finance that medical assessments could resume on 01/01/2021.

Unfortunately, due to suspension of the scheme in June 2020 and the current Covid 19 pandemic, there is a considerable backlog of applications awaiting medical assessment. The HSE Midlands Louth Meath CHO will endeavour to ensure that this backlog and waiting list is cleared in the near future, as soon as community transmission of the Covid 19 virus is at a lower level than it is presently.

We would anticipate that we should be able to initiate a catch up to address the Primary Medical Certificate backlog at the beginning of Quarter 2, 2021 and that we should be able to deliver this within the current manpower resources.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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**Sarah McBride**

Chief Officer

Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation