



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Health Service Executive,
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin,
Dublin Mid-Leinster,
Midland Regional Hospital at Portlaoise,
Co. Laois.

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29th March, 2021

Minister Sean Fleming T.D.,
Minister of State at the Department of Finance
Dail Eireann

Dublin

Ref: PQ 16705/21 – To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding an eye clinic (details supplied) in County Laois; the arrangements in place for persons who attend this clinic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Minister Fleming

I refer to the parliamentary question above relating to Ophthalmology services in Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Please be advised that there is currently an outpatient Adult Ophthalmology service provided on the campus of the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise. This services is attended by a Consultant Ophthalmologist.

The Children's Ophthalmology Service is a key priority for the Midland Regional Hospital at Portlaoise. A number of unsuccessful recruitment initiatives were undertaken to replace Dr. Nolan. In order to address the waiting list, the Hospital working with the Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore agreed for those children waiting to be seen in Tullamore and this initiative was supported by the Ophthalmology Service in MRHT.

Unfortunately with the impact of Covid-19, the facility used by this service in MRHT is not available currently and staff agreed to continue appointments for these children in Athlone. The Hospital appreciate the difficulties for our patients and is working with the National Ophthalmology Programme to recruit appropriate staff to restore the service at MRHP as soon as possible

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

Michael Knowles
General Manager