



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

**Deputy Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dail Eireann
Dublin**

Ref: PQ 17306/21 – To ask the Minister for Health if there is an eye clinic available in Portlaoise; and if so the location of the service

And

PQ 17311/21 – To ask the Minister for Health if there is a paediatric eye clinic in Portlaoise at the moment; and if so, the location it is operating from

Dear Deputy Stanley

I refer to the parliamentary questions 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**