



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí  
Oifig na bPríomhoifigeac  
An Chéad Urlár, Coimpléasc Naomh Bríd  
Bóthar Cheanannais  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia  
Co Lú  
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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ – 53441/21 - To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1164 of 9 September 2021, if progress has been made from September 2021 in terms of the health service provision of an appropriate needle exchange in Drogheda, County Louth following the removal of a harm reduction worker in early 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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

The HSE is currently redeveloping the Needle Exchange programme to include harm reduction, safer injecting practices, drug diaries etc. Existing staff will engage in additional training and the HSE are working towards securing additional posts to support this programme across the Louth/Meath area.

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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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation