



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

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29th of October 2021

Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 50491/21 To ask the Minister for Health the interim arrangements that have been put in place at the Letterkenny University Hospital community ophthalmic service in view of all three physicians having left the facility.

Dear Deputy MacLochlainn,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the above query. I have linked with the relevant services and below is response to your query.

The following arrangements have been implemented to ensure a safe level of service is provided to patients with high priority Ophthalmic needs:

- Ophthalmologists from Sligo University Hospital are providing additional clinics each week in the Eye Clinic in St. Conals to see high priority patients.
- A twice weekly Clinic for Emergency Ophthalmology Care continues to be provided in the Eye Clinic in St Conal's Letterkenny.
- Nursing, Orthoptics and Optometry capacity continues to operate as normal.
- Arrangements are being made for patients with Glaucoma who need to be seen urgently in Barrack St, Primary Care Centre Sligo or in Letterkenny.
- Patients with Diabetes who urgently need to be seen are being assessed and treated at a newly established Medical Retina and Intra-vitreous Injection service in Letterkenny.
- A clinic for urgent and long waiting Donegal Patients on the community cataract waiting list was held at the beginning of October where suitability and listing for surgery was established.
- The Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmic Surgeon from Sligo University Hospital is assessing and treating children with urgent Ophthalmic care needs during his Letterkenny Clinic.
- GP's Opticians/ Optometrists/ and Letterkenny University Hospital and Sligo University Hospital are receiving regular updates appraising them of the situation and seeking their continued support with only referring urgent patients.

I can also confirm that we have worked closely with our Human Resources Department to progress the replacement of the Community Ophthalmic Physician who is on a leave of absence with a Physician on a specified purpose contract. The remaining vacancies are being actively progressed as well and we have received formal approval to appoint a Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist which we will be progressing as a matter of urgency.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dermot Monaghan,
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil



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