



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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27th September 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ – 41911/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the position with regard to the harm reduction worker who was assigned to the Drogheda area in 2020 to manage the concerning lack of needle exchange provided by the HSE in the area; the reasons for this absence; if any other relevant details will be provided in relation to same; 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.

Following on from the Department of Justice Geiran report, the HSE commissioned an independent review of the Louth/Meath Addiction Services. Part of this review included analysing the funding allocated to services across the Louth Meath area to ensure the needs are identified and met. Following completion of this review, the recommendations have been accepted by the HSE Senior Management Team and they are now working towards completing these recommendations over the coming months. As part of this review, the HSE will be redeveloping the Needle Exchange services 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,

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