



**Cúram Sláinte
Pobail Thoir**
ag freastal ar Bhaile Átha Cliath
Thoir Theas, Baile Átha Cliath
Theas agus Cill Mhantáin

**Community
Healthcare East**
serving Dublin South East,
Dublin South and Wicklow

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil
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21st September 2021

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 43313_21

To ask the Minister for Health if the Public Orthodontist in the Orthodontic Unit of St. Columcille's Hospital Loughlinstown, County Dublin is currently on sick leave; if so, the length of time they will be on leave; the provisions that have been made to replace and cover the position; if the Orthodontist is still practising in their private clinic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

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 and Children for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

With regard to the questions relating to personal information of HSE staff, current GDPR legislation precludes the HSE from divulging personal information, such as sick leave data relating to individual employees. Furthermore, the HSE does not collect or have available for public dissemination, any information relating to the personal and private undertakings of any of its staff members.

We currently have one Specialist Orthodontist in place in the Orthodontic Unit of St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, County Dublin and another Specialist Orthodontist will commence work in the next 4-6 weeks. A third Specialist Orthodontist will be returning to work on the 6th January 2022. A Consultant Orthodontist post has been approved and interviews were held for this post in July 2021. A formal job offer has been accepted on the 4th August 2021 and a start date is due to be agreed in the coming weeks. Two further Specialist Orthodontist posts have been approved and job offers have been accepted for both posts in September 2021.



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There have been delays in seeing patients in active treatment. To address this, we have set up a number of clinics with three Consultant Orthodontists in both the Simms Building, Tallaght and in the Orthodontic Unit in Loughlinstown. Patients have already received appointments and will continue to do so until they are transferred to a new orthodontist. A number of patients have been transferred to a Consultant Orthodontist to complete their treatment.

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,

Emma Smyth
Head of Service, Primary Care