



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Deputy Emer Higgins  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

Ref: PQ45029/21

To ask the Minister for Health the action being taken to improve access to general practitioner care in Lucan, County Dublin, as the population of areas such as Adamstown continue to grow and new communities such as Clonburris are developed; and if he will make a statement on the matter -Emer Higgins

Dear Deputy Higgins

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Currently the Health Service Executive (HSE) has a GMS list advertised in Lucan, which is an open competition, and any GP may apply for the position. Any GP is welcome to take out an open entry GMS contract with the HSE provided the set criteria is met, and there is no limit set by the HSE on the number of GPs who may take out a GMS contract. It is important to note that contracted GPs are not employed by the HSE, but are contracted by the HSE to deliver services to medical card patients. Such GPs will also have a private patient cohort.

GPs, who are contracted to the GMS are allowed over 2000 GMS clients on their list before they are capped. In relation to Lucan and the contracted GP's in the area, I can confirm that some GP's in Lucan have not reached the maximum number of clients on their lists and have capacity for more GMS clients.

In respect of all GPs, those with GMS contracts and those who practice privately only, the HSE does not restrict the number who may practice in an area. Neither can the location at which a GP chooses to practice be dictated by the HSE. Such decisions are market driven for GPs.

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

Yours sincerely,

  
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Mary O'Kelly  
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