

15<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

Mr. Michael Healy Rae, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 17672/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to help with the lack of general practitioner facilities in Ballyduff, County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details supplied: Ballyduff GP - "I have been contacted by locals who have major concerns in relation to the set up of the locum who is operating under extreme difficulties. They are extremely lucky and thankful to have a locum but they just feel that there is no privacy, it is awkward for everyone involved. The old health centre in Rathoo is currently up for sale. Does the HSE have any intentions in purchasing this building?"**

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

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.

Since 1st September, 2021, the HSE has run an Interim General Practice service in Ballyduff, with a locum GP, Nursing and Administration staffing, whilst endeavouring to recruit a permanent GP for the area.

The interim service is situated in a number of rooms, 2 clinical and 1 administrative office, on the ground floor, to the rear of Ballyduff Pharmacy building. This building was the best available prospect at the time of the standing up of the Interim Service, which had to be completed within a 3 month time frame from notification to commencement of service.

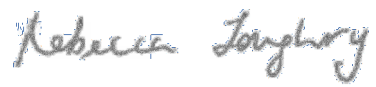
Every effort is being undertaken to ensure the efficient running of the service which includes adhering to health and safety, as well as confidentiality requirements. The practice has been deemed to be fit for purpose.

A 4th recruitment campaign for a permanent GP in Ballyduff has yielded a successful candidate. This GP has been offered the post and is now at the contracting stage.

The HSE anticipates that it will be in a position to hand over the interim service, which it has been running, in the coming months. The associated particulars are in the process of being worked out. The HSE will communicate with all GMS cardholders as soon as the specifics are finalised and can be communicated.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Loughry".

**Rebecca Loughry,  
Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**