

14th December, 2022.

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 61283/22

"To ask the Minister for Health the status of the potential closure of a GP service in Blarney, County Cork; the status of the proposed primary care centre for Blarney; and the timeline for same."

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

The HSE was advised of the upcoming resignation of Dr. Una O'Halloran's GMS GP position in Ashdale Centre in Blarney, Co. Cork on 28th September 2022, which will become vacant on 31st December 2022.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has arranged for an interim GP service for all GMS cardholders from 1st January 2023, for the duration of the recruitment campaign for a permanent GP to uptake Dr. O'Halloran's present GMS panel.

On Thursday 1st December, communication issued to Dr. O'Halloran's current panel of GMS cardholders to advise that an interim GP service has been arranged, and will be in place, effective from 1st January, under a temporary locum contract with Dr. Eamonn O'Grady at OB Medical Group, Old Fort Road, Ballincollig, Cork, P31XN96, until such time as a permanent GP is contracted to uptake the vacant GP position in Blarney.

In making arrangements for this interim GP service, Cork Kerry has taken cognisance of a number of factors including distance. Every effort was undertaken to keep the service as close to the original centre of practice as possible. The interim service has been arranged in line with the distance permissible for a change of main centre of practice per the GMS GP contract.

The practice hours and contact details are as follows:

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>09:00 – 13:00</u>	<u>09:00 – 13:00</u>	<u>09:00 – 13:00</u>	<u>09:00 – 13:00</u>	<u>09:00 – 13:00</u>
<u>14:00 – 17:00</u>	<u>14:00 – 17:00</u>	<u>14:00 – 17:00</u>	<u>14:00 – 17:00</u>	<u>14:00 – 16:30</u>

Phone: [021 487 2555](tel:0214872555)

Fax: [021 487 5538](tel:0214875538)

Email: reception@corkdoctor.com

Website: www.obmedical.ie

Out of Hours will continue to be covered in the same manner by SouthDoc who are contactable on 1850 335 999, on Mon-Thurs 6pm – 8am next day, and on Friday from 6pm to Monday at 8am.

This interim service will remain until we conclude the GP recruitment campaign for the area.

The advertisement for this GMS GP position went live on Thursday 8th December 2022. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 1st February 2023.

The online links to the advertisement are hereunder:

<https://www.rezoo.com/job/40998/>

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/job-search/medical-dental/ckch-mds3-1222-general-practitioner-in-the-gms-scheme.html>

The advertisement will feature also in a range of other media platforms specific to the recruitment of medical personnel/General Practitioners.

An interview board will be convened as expediently as possible after the campaign closing date and thereafter, a contracting process will be entered into with the GP that accepts the post.

GMS Cardholders have been advised that upon the conclusion of the recruitment process, the HSE will write to them again, to advise them of the permanent arrangements for the transfer of their GP service to the incoming GMS GP.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', enclosed in a rectangular box.

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare