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10th January 2023

Catherine Connolly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ ref 61380/22 – Clifden District Hospital Recruitment Campaign Update

Dear Deputy Connolly,

I refer to PQ ref 61380/22 uploaded on the PAD System on the 5th December 2022, due for response on the 20th December regarding a status update on the recruitment campaign for staff nurses in Clifden District Hospital. I wish to apologise for the late response however, I was awaiting confirmation of the outcome of the recruitment campaign. The following response outlines the current position.

The extensive bespoke nurse recruitment campaign for Clifden is complete. At a minimum, four additional nurses are required to sustain the current residential older people services in both St. Anne Community Nursing Unit, designated long term residential service, and the short stay services, currently respite from the community and convalescence from GUH, in Clifden District Hospital. Twenty nine applications were received for the bespoke campaign and twenty-two were shortlisted for interview. Five attended for interview, were placed on a panel and offered permanent staff nurse posts. Despite our best efforts advertising the competition, unfortunately only one nurse, who will not be available until Summer 2024, was forthcoming from the interview process.

We continue to review service needs and what we can provide based on the available staffing. We will continue to engage with staff, unions, GPs and political representatives in this regard

I trust this response addresses the matter you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

Siobhan O'Sullivan
General Manager
Older People's Services
Community Healthcare West