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1st March 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD Dáil Éireann Leinster House Dublin 2

PQ 10667/22

To ask the Minister for Health the current level of HSE podiatry staff servicing acute and community services in County Wexford; if he will provide an update on plans to improve these services for persons with diabetes in County Wexford and nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.

South East Community Healthcare offers a community based podiatry service in Wexford for 1 day per week based in St. John's Hospital, Enniscorthy through Diabetes Ireland. Due to the limitations of the resource through Diabetes Ireland, this service is limited to treating patients that have been prioritised as high risk of having foot complications.

Currently there is no podiatry service available under the GMS scheme or for routine podiatry needs.

The HSE has an active recruitment campaign underway to secure the filling of a full time replacement for the Wexford podiatry post in addition to new development resources approved to increase the number of podiatrists across the county.

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

Yours sincerely,

Anna Marie Lanigan

Head of Service-Primary Care

Assistant National Director

South East Community Healthcare