



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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2nd March 2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ – 6654/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the podiatric waiting list by location and waiting time by month in counties Louth and Meath in January 2021 and January 2022; the number of HSE podiatric clinics by location; the number of staff employed; the number of vacancies for podiatrists by location; when it is expected these vacancies will be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter- Deputy Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

Meath Primary Care Podiatry Services

	January 2021	January 2022
Waiting List	267 (with 136 pts waiting longer than 52 weeks)	318 (with 201 pts waiting longer than 52 weeks)
No. of HSE Podiatry Clinic Locations in Co. Meath.	2 * *Please see foot note	3
No. of HSE Podiatry Clinics held <u>per week</u> in Co. Meath	4* *Please see foot note	9
No. of Podiatry staff employed in Co. Meath	2.75 x WTE Snr Pod	2 x WTE Snr Pod
No. of Vacancies for Podiatrists/location in	0	0.75 x WTE Snr Pod. Location of post – Navan



Co. Meath		Network: Slane Health Centre (Vacancy from October 2021)
When Vacancies will be filled?	N/A	0.75 x WTE: All relevant paperwork submitted but to date HR has received no update for expression of interest.

*To provide some context: In January 2021 70% of our team (2 x WTE) were **still** redeployed to COVID testing on a **full time capacity**. These two staff members have now since returned to their substantive roles in the Podiatry service. In addition, we had one member of our team in the community, working under emergency eligibility criteria that was put in place in March 2020. The emergency criteria allowed our team member to see our **'Active Foot Disease'** and our **'High Risk'** patients from across the county in 2 central locations (Trim and Navan), with 4 clinics being held per week.*

Louth Primary Care Podiatry Services

- Number on waiting list as of 31/01/2021 Drogheda 33 Dundalk 252
Total 285
- Number on waiting list as of 31/01/2022 Drogheda 93 Dundalk 300
Total 393
- Waiting times currently are in excess of one year
- Podiatry clinics by location are as follows:

Boyne Primary Care Centre, Patrick St., Drogheda, A92 F4EV
Community Services Building, Dublin Rd., Dundalk, A92 H274

- Number of staff employed by Louth PCS as of 10/2/2022 is zero.
- Louth Primary Care Services has 1 Whole-time Equivalent vacancy as of 10/02/2022.
 - Boyne PCC 0.5 WE
 - Community Services 0.5 WTE

In the late Spring/early summer 2021 the HSE National Recruitment Service ran an extensive recruitment campaign for Clinical Specialist, Senior and Basic grade Podiatrists. This campaign was successful with significant numbers placed on each of the respective panels.

In December 2021 Louth Primary Care Services invited successful candidates to express an interest in taking up a post in either of the main Primary Care Centres in Louth or taking up the fulltime post and dividing their time between the two centres as outlined.

Regrettably no candidate came forward and both posts remain unfilled.



We are acutely aware of the current gap that exists. Tissue Viability and Nursing services are currently providing services to this cohort of patients on a clinical priority need.

Acute Hospital colleagues are accepting priority referrals following referral from an Endocrinologist or from GPs to OPD or ED.

The restoration of Podiatry Service remains an urgent and immediate priority.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation