



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &  
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte**  
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**Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.**

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**PQ Ref: 9387/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of recruiting four additional full-time diabetes podiatrists for each CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to your parliamentary question which was passed to the HSE for response.

In line with Sláintecare, the Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECC) objective is to deliver increased levels of health care with service delivery reoriented towards general practice, primary care and community-based services. The focus is on implementing an end-to-end care pathway that will care for people at home and over time prevent referrals and admissions to acute hospitals where it is safe and appropriate to do so, and enable a “home first” approach.

The ECC Programme was allocated €240m for the establishment of 96 CHNs, 30 Community Specialist Teams for Older people, 30 Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease, national coverage for community intervention teams and the development of a volunteer-type model in collaboration with Alone.

The rollout of the ECC Programme is closely aligned with the implementation of the “GP Agreement 2019”, through which targeted funding of €210m has been provided to general practice to support phased development and modernisation over the period 2019 to 2022.

The ECC Programme funding described is providing a significant uplift to Community Podiatrists with 93 Integrated Care Podiatrists (and an additional 6 Podiatrists allocated to Acute Services – 3 WTE Clinical Specialists and 3 WTE Senior Podiatristic) to be recruited across the 9 CHOs. The breakdown of the additional Podiatrists being recruited is 30 WTE Clinical Specialist Podiatrists, 34 WTE Senior Podiatrists, and 29 Staff Grade Podiatrists. The Community Podiatrists will make up part of the 30 Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease. The recruitment for Diabetes Podiatrists commenced in mid-2021 across the country and is ongoing, currently with 25% of the overall Podiatrists onboarded.

I hope the above is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
Primary Care Contracts**