



7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Deputy Patricia Ryan  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 2963/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the shortage of general practitioners in the Newbridge area of County Kildare; his plans to encourage general practitioners to set up in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan**

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Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

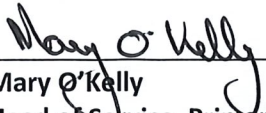
The Government is aware of the workforce issues currently facing general practice nationally, including the limited access to GP services in certain areas, and has implemented a number of measures to improve recruitment and retention in general practice. These measures include an increase in investment in general practice by approximately 40% (€211.6 million) between 2019 and 2023.

Dublin South Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare Area, has no remit in the area of private GP Practice. Where a GP might choose to practice is market driven for the GP, and cannot be dictated by the HSE. The HSE does have a remit in the area of GP Services for Medical Card holders, and works with GPs to agree contracts for such. All GPs are free to take out a contract with the HSE to deliver services to Medical Card holders on the General Medical Services (GMS) scheme, provided the criteria are met, and the HSE does not restrict the number of contracts in a geographic area.

The HSE, in line with Sláintecare objectives, includes accommodation provision for GP practices in all of its new Primary Care Centres (PCCs), and I am happy to advise that the new PCC at Station Road, Newbridge offers GP services.

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

Yours sincerely,

  
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Mary O'Kelly  
Head of Service, Primary Care  
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare