



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

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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26th January, 2022

Mr Duncan Smith T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 3122/22

To ask the Minister for Health the steps the HSE is taking to provide a full-time doctor in the dispensary premises at Ballynacargy, Mullingar, County Westmeath to replace the doctor who has recently retired and ensure that persons in the area can continue to avail of medical services and attention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith

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 I outline the position as follows.

I wish to advise that Dr O'Kelly retired from the GMS Scheme on 31/12/2021 and was unable to extend this deadline.

The GMS vacancy has been advertised by open competition on two separate occasions. This is a very rural practice with a very small panel size (currently 320 patients) and has proved challenging to fill. There were no eligible candidates arising from the first advertisement and one applicant only following the second advert.

Following the interview process, recruitment is currently in progress in respect of the successful candidate. Once all clearances are received and are in order, the HSE will be in a position to agree a start date and operational hours with the new GP and issue a permanent GMS contract. It is expected that this will be completed within 2 to 3 months.

In the interim period, expressions of interest were sought from the GPs in the East Westmeath area. Following this process, Dr Neil Healy agreed to provide temporary part-time cover on site in Ballynacargy, in addition to his own surgery commitments and will continue to provide same, until the new permanent GP commences.



I trust the above is in order, 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.

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