



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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11th August 2022

Deputy Imelda Munster
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ – 38362/22 –To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide information on the number of diabetes patients in Drogheda and South Louth who currently have to travel outside of their locality to attend diabetes clinics including the number of patients travelling and the clinics they are attending; if he has plans to establish a diabetes clinic in Drogheda, County Louth; and if he will provide details of same, or if not, if he will provide the rationale for that position.

Dear Deputy Munster,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to Minister Stephen Donnelly for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows. Question.

At present, there are no diabetes MDT clinics in North or South Louth. Disciplines run individual clinics and refer to the other disciplines as needed and GPs refer to the individual disciplines as needed. Diabetes cycle of care is the only structured care for diabetes in community and is run through the GP practices. However, this will change when the Chronic Disease Management hubs are in operation.

In relation to the Dietitian service for people in Drogheda and South Louth with Diabetes, there is a comprehensive service in place as follows; there are three Dietitian led clinics per week in Primary Care. These Dietitians offer a mix of face to face appointments and virtual appointments to best suit patients. The total number of patients waiting for appointments are 65 for individual appointments and 85 for Diabetes group education. No one has been instructed to access Dietitian supports for their Diabetes outside of the Drogheda, South Louth area.



Regarding Ophthalmology in North Louth, there is one diabetes clinic per week which sees 6 patients. In South Louth/Drogheda there is no specific community diabetic service however, adults with diabetes can be managed by the National Diabetic Retina Screening programme. This programme runs at 3 different locations in Drogheda.

Regarding podiatry, there is no community diabetes service in North or South Louth at present.

To summarise, people with diabetes living in South Louth do not have a MDT service available but rather attend clinics with individual disciplines, however as advised this will change with the development of the Diabetes Chronic Disease Management Programme between the Community and Hospital.

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 with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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