

27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022

Mr. Colm Burke, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 41035/22**

**"To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm the action that is being taken to appoint a HSE chiropodist in the Bantry area in Cork; the likely time one will be in place to ensure those with mobility problems have this level of care; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

There are two Vacant Permanent Posts in the West Cork area, Network 10, one Senior and one Staff Grade. Staff Grade Interviews have been completed for a second time nationally, and expressions of interest sought and we are awaiting the results of this with the hope that the West Cork Staff Grade vacancy will be filled.

The Vacant Senior Post has been put forward twice for expressions of interest, unfortunately no expressions were received from the existing National Senior Panel, which was formed Last year. A local campaign is being pursued in the hope that this and other vacancies throughout CHO4 can be filled.

As an interim measure, there is a Senior Podiatrist (from the Chronic Disease Hub South City) based in Clonakilty Primary Care Centre, who is providing Podiatry care for those at greatest risk in Network 10. Eligible patients are, continue to be seen, and are being provided with ongoing care from this location. This is a Temporary arrangement until the Chronic Disease Hub is operational.

This Podiatrist is proactively providing training to other members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (GPs, PHNs Practice Nurses etc.) within this Network and forging strong links so that the service is established when the new Staff members are in post.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



---

**Priscilla Lynch**  
Head of Service - Primary Care,  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare