



Health Service Executive  
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin  
Dublin Mid-Leinster  
Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise  
Co Laois

Telephone: (057) 86 21364  
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Deputy Brian Stanley,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin.

7<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**RE: PQ:33257/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to restart the children's ophthalmic clinic in Portlaoise Hospital as at present parents have to arrange transport to get their children to the nearest clinic which is in Athlone.**

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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.

A vacancy currently exists for the post of Community Ophthalmic Physician at the hospital since the resignation of the permanent Community Ophthalmic Physician. Despite a number of campaigns to recruit for this post the hospital has been unable to fill the vacancy. As an interim measure the hospital has engaged ophthalmic services within the Midlands area to continue the service until such time as the post can be filled.

I trust that 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 read 'Michael Knowles', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Knowles  
General Manager