



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse,  
Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil,  
An Cabhan, Muineachan, Sligeach,  
Liatroim & Dun na nGall

Head of Service  
Primary Care CHO1  
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo  
Leitrim & Donegal

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09<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Pádraig Mac Lochlainn T.D.  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 12669/22 - “To ask the Minister for Health the plans of the HSE to replace the three eye doctors in the County Donegal ophthalmology service that have vacated their positions in recent times; and if the newly appointed consultants for this service will be based in County Donegal rather than County Sligo to oversee the full ophthalmic teams there in order that they can continue at the very least to deliver the same level of care to an enormous existing service”.**

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

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. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position

The current status of the three posts in the Donegal Ophthalmology Service is as follows;

1. The physician in the first post is currently on a Leave of Absence. A locum is currently providing cover for this post.
2. Following a retirement in October 2021, the second physician post has been reconfigured into a permanent Consultant Ophthalmologist post. This new post is currently at recruitment stage with Health Business Service Recruit. This post will be based in Donegal.
3. The physician in the third post has been on leave since September 2021. The caseload of this post is being covered through;
  - The undertaking of local recruitment campaigns.
  - Additional support provided by the Sligo Ophthalmology Service.
  - The reassignment of non-complex care, under the Governance of a Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, to Optometry staff appointed last year as part of a Sláintecare project.

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



Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mandy Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Mandy Doyle**  
**A/Head Of Service Primary Care CHO1**

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**Head of Service, Primary Care CHO1**

**Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dermot". The signature is written in a cursive style.