

22nd March, 2022.

Ms. Holly Cairns T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 13542/22

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure the resumption of chiropody services for public patients in Bantry, County Cork."

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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 is indeed a shortage of Podiatrists in West Cork and there remains vacancies in Network 10 and, despite several attempts at recruiting suitably qualified staff, we have, to date been unable to fill them.

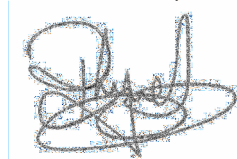
As a short term measure a Senior Podiatrist from the South City Chronic Disease Hub has agreed to temporarily attend Clonakilty Primary Care in order to provide some service to those patients at highest risk of developing complications in Network 10, including those patients from Bantry. This is a temporary arrangement until such time as the Chronic Disease Hubs are operational. This will be needs led initially, so only the highest risk patients will be contacted with appointments.

In circumstances whereby there is a significant change in clinical presentation, individuals are advised to consult with their General Practitioner.

We will continue our endeavour to fill these vacancies as speedily as possible.

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