



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

HSE,
Area Office, Arden Road,
Tullamore, Co Offaly

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)
[@MLMCommHealth](https://twitter.com/MLMCommHealth)

t 057 9359787
e CHO8@hse.ie

23rd March, 2022

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 13972/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of general practitioner practices with capacity to accept new patients in counties Longford and Westmeath in tabular form.
-Sorca Clarke**

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

There are currently a total of 69 GMS contracted GPs in counties Longford and Westmeath. There is currently one GMS vacancy in Westmeath and there are no GMS vacancies in Longford.

The GMS vacancy in Westmeath relates to Ballynacargy which is currently being filled on a part-time temporary capacity. The recruitment process for the permanent GP has been completed and the new GP will commence on 1st April, 2022.

Under the terms of the GMS contract, the maximum permissible limit of a GP's GMS/Medical Card panel, (in respect of GPs who hold GMS, GP Visit and Under 6 Contracts), is 2,200 patients. Panels are frozen on reaching this limit. I wish to confirm that there are currently **NO** GP GMS panels which exceed the 2,200 limit, in either counties Longford or Westmeath.

In view of the above, the HSE is therefore satisfied that there is capacity amongst GPs in the Longford and Westmeath areas to accept new GMS patients.

In addition, in the event of medical card patients having difficulty in sourcing a GP, there is provision under Paragraph 4 of the GMS contract, for the assignment of a patient to the GP's GMS list.

In relation to private patients, the HSE does not maintain information on the capacity of GPs to accept new private patients and this is a matter for the individual GP.



Summary of relevant details of Longford/Westmeath GPs is outlined below:

Total Number of GMS Contracted GPs Longford and Westmeath (as at 21/3/2022)	69
LONGFORD	
Number of GPs	20
Number of GPs whose panels exceed 2,200	Nil
Number of GPs whose panels exceed 2,000	Nil
Number of GMS GP Vacancies	Nil
WESTMEATH	
Number of GPs	49
Number of GPs whose panels exceed 2,200	Nil
Number of GPs whose panels exceed 2,000	1
Number of GMS GP Vacancies (as at 21/3/2022)	1

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,

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