



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram  
Príomhúil,  
Chabháin, Dhún na nGall, Liatroim,  
Mhúineacháin, Shiligh,  
Campas Naomh Damhnait,  
Muineachain

Office of Head of Service Primary Care,  
Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan,  
Sligo  
St. Davnet's Campus,  
Monaghan.

[www.hse.ie@hselive](mailto:www.hse.ie@hselive)

t: 047 95615 / 95616

e: [HOSPC.CHO1@hse.ie](mailto:HOSPC.CHO1@hse.ie)

30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Thomas Pringle  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 23318/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the plans that are in place to return to having three community ophthalmic physicians available in County Donegal as there was previously; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Pringle

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 the following outlines the position

There are currently two vacant Community Ophthalmic Physician positions in Co Donegal. The third Community Ophthalmic Physician is filled by two part-time Community Ophthalmic Physicians.

Recruitment campaigns for Community Ophthalmic Physicians are ongoing in CHO 1, the most recent of which took place two weeks ago. To date, there has been limited success in recruiting additional Community Ophthalmic Physicians to the vacant posts in Donegal.

In recognition of the difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff to these posts, CHO 1 management commenced the process of recruiting a permanent Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist for Donegal which is currently in the final stages of recruitment. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be in post by September / October 2022 and will fill one of the two vacancies.

It is also anticipated that when the Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist is appointed to Donegal, it will help expedite the recruitment of a Community Ophthalmic Physician to the remaining vacant position.

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

Yours sincerely

**Amanda Doyle**  
**A/Head of Service Primary Care CHO1**

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil  
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

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

