



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

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20th June 2022

Ms Niamh Smyth T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ Reference 27277/22 *"To ask the Minister for Health the status of ophthalmology clinics (details supplied); the days on which the services are operational; the locations of the clinics; if clarity will be provided in relation to clinics in Cavan town; and if he will make a statement on the matter".*

Dear Deputy Smyth,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Chief Officer, CHO 1 for response. I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the position:

Clinics are being delivered in North Monaghan Primary Care Centre (3 days per week) and Virginia Primary Care Centre (3 days per week). Plans are well advanced to commence the delivery of eye clinics from Connolly Street Primary Care Centre, Cavan from late June 2022.

There has been an increase in waiting times due to a reduction in clinical staffing (due to a retirement) and reduced numbers attending the clinics due to the Infection, Prevention and Control measures that are in place to ensure staff and patient safety.

An application to replace in full the Community Ophthalmologist post has been approved and is presently listed for approval through the CACC (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) process. Other clinical roles to enhance and support the Eye Care Team are being identified including a Staff Nurse post which has recently been approved.

There are a number of validation processes taking place in the department to validate new referrals and those patients who are waiting on review/follow up appointments.

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
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
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