



OFFICE OF THE CEO SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP ERINVILLE WESTERN ROAD CORK Tel: 021 – 4921509 T12 EDK0

17<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Deputy Pa Daly, 2 Moyderwell, Tralee, Co. Kerry

## PQ Ref 27314/22

Dear Deputy Daly,

## \*To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who had to travel from County Kerry to each hospital in counties Cork and Limerick to be seen by a consultant podiatrist from January 2021 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter\*

- Pa Daly

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.

Historically, University Hospital Kerry (UHK) had 1 Whole Time Equivalent Senior Podiatrist. Unfortunately, the substantive job holder resigned from the post in July 2021 to take up a position elsewhere. The post have been advertised on a number of occasions without success.

In the interim, the Podiatry service is currently linked with Cork University Hospital and Community Services with set out agreed temporary 'shared care' arrangements. However, new arrangements will be put in place in the coming weeks following a process of consultation, which will enhance the service and sustain it on a more permanent structure.

To this end, UHK is not in a positon to provide the requested data at this time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

erry

Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer Group CEO, South/South West Hospital Group E-mail ceo.sswhg@hse.ie