



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

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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13th May 2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ – 27566/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the urgent requirement to address ophthalmology services for children in County Louth and to fill vacant posts as quickly as possible; the current vacant roles within the service in County Louth and when they are expected to be filled; if there is a process by which parents can access private appointments and recoup the cost by the state; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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 outlined the position as follows.

I am pleased to advise that the appointment of an Orthoptist has been agreed from 4th July'22 and the appointment of an Optometrist is being progressed with an appointment expected in Q3, 2022.

The waiting list for children is currently at 400. The appointment of these two staff will provide a full staffing complement for Ophthalmic services in Co. Louth.

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,

Patricia Whelehan
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation