



**Ceann Seirbhísí Daoine Scothaosta**

Limistéar Cúram Sláinte Pobail an  
Oirdheiscirt | Lacken |  
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath | Cill Chainnigh |  
R95 NV08

**Head of Service Older  
Persons**

South East Community  
Healthcare Area | Lacken |  
Dublin Road | Kilkenny |  
R95 NV08

Tel: 056 7784319

13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 50659/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update regarding the conversion of multitask assistant and household domestic staff and catering grades to healthcare assistant grades at Dungarvan Community Hospital; the number of posts which have been converted; the number of outstanding posts; the number of domestic grade posts which have been converted; the number of outstanding claims from domestic grade posts; the manner in which claims from domestic grade posts is being handled; if domestic-grade post workers who are performing HCA work and hold the requisite FETAC level 5 qualification will be upgraded to HCA posts; the number of meetings held with trade unions regarding this; the outcome of said meetings; the number of occasions on which Dungarvan Community Hospital management has requested upgraded posts for domestic-grade workers; the number of occasions on which these were refused, and by whom they were refused; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

The Joint SIPTU / HSE agreement set out clear and specific criteria for a review of staff at MTA grade, who, by meeting said criteria, were eligible for the role conversion from MTA to HCA. It was determined that 19 staff members met the set criteria. The HSE were and are obliged to apply the specific criteria relating to this agreement and therefore no other staff members in Dungarvan Community Hospital qualified for this conversion. Furthermore, support grades outside of the MTA grade were not considered as per joint SIPTU / HSE agreement and criteria.

Separate to the Joint SIPTU / HSE agreement, the Manager of Older Persons Services has been requested to consider the merits of 10 further staff members, who are currently at attendant grade and with a different Union. The request is a conversion from Attendant Grade to HCA and in recognition of the duties they have performed at HCA grade. If these staff are deemed to meet the qualifying criteria (QQI level 5), they will be considered for contract conversion.

At this time there have been at least 10 meetings with UNITE Union in relation to these matters and continued progress is being made. In addition, Nurse Management at Dungarvan Community Hospital have made representation on behalf of their staff members.

For clarification, HSE Management continues to engage with Unions and no claim has been refused to date.



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I trust that this clarifies. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen McDaid', written in a cursive style.

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**Helen McDaid**  
**Head of Service South East Community Healthcare**