



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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04/10/2022

Deputy John Lahart
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ 45442/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if general practitioners have been allocated to the new primary care centre in Ballyboden, Rathfarnham; if not, the reasons for the delay in appointing general practitioners to this centre; and if his attention has been drawn to there being an increasingly serious shortage of GP practices in Dublin South West.”

John Lahart, TD

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm that Two GP practices have been allocated to the Ballyboden Primary Care Centre following a competitive process. The GPs will take up residence in the centre in the coming months.

The Health Service can confirm there are four GP vacancies in Dublin South West, two in Tallaght and two in Templeogue and interviews to fill these posts are upcoming later this month. These positions are currently filled by locum doctors. There is one additional GP position in Templeogue that has become vacant recently and this will be advertised in the coming weeks.

The HSE is aware of the workforce issues currently facing general practice nationally, including the limited access to GP services in certain areas and has implemented a number of measures to improve recruitment and retention in general practice. These measures include an increase in investment in general practice by approximately 40% (€211.6 million) between 2019 and 2023.

Where a GP might choose to practice is market driven for the GP and cannot be dictated by the HSE. The HSE does have a remit in the area of GP Services for Medical Card holders and works with GPs to agree contracts for such. All GPs are free to take out a contract with the HSE to deliver services to Medical Card holders on the General Medical Services (GMS) scheme, provided the criteria are met and the HSE does not restrict the number of contracts in a geographic area. The HSE, in line with Sláintecare objectives, includes accommodation provision for GP practices in all of its new Primary Care Centres (PCCs) and actively engages with local GPs who are interested in locating at the new PCCs.

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

Yours sincerely,

PP.

Gillian Farrelly
Interim Head of Service, Primary Care
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