

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

Mr. Pádraig O'Sullivan, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 17309/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health when the replacement general practitioner will start operating in Blarney, County Cork, given the recruitment process has concluded in early March 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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.

As you are aware, the HSE undertook a recruitment campaign for this panel and accordingly, a number of candidates were interviewed across 2 dates in late Feb, and early March.

A GP has been identified through this process, however, regrettably, it has not been possible to arrange for the GMS GP service to be based in the Blarney town, despite endeavouring to do so.

The HSE is presently engaged in the final contracting stages with Dr Robert Gee, who will take up the position of the GMS GP for this GMS panel on 1st July 2023. Dr. Gee, is based at Broadlane Family Practice in Blackpool, a short distance from Blarney village, and his practice is on a regular/frequent direct bus route from the old centre of practice to the new centre of practice, with stops located very close to both practices.

It is important to note that within the GMS contract, a GP has a right to move his or her service, at any time, to a suitable location within 11kms/7 miles.

From a service access perspective, Broadlane Family Practice is located 7.8km from the former centre of practice for this GMS panel. The 215 bus stops directly across the street from the former centre of practice. This bus service has a number of stops in and around Blarney, en route to Blackpool, with approximately, 17 return services between the hours of 8:30 am and 5 pm each day Monday – Friday. The journey duration from Station Cross, Blarney, to Blackpool Church is approximately 17 minutes.

Additionally, Dr Gee has assured the HSE that where there is a clinical need, there will be no difficulty in undertaking domiciliary visits in the Blarney area.

Correspondence was issued to the main cardholders of this GMS panel on Thursday 13th April also.

Notwithstanding the accessibility of the new centre of practice, the HSE appreciates that this relocation will present a challenge for some GMS Cardholders, and accordingly, a change of doctor process will be available from 1st July to those that require it.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**