



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL  
**CORCAIGH CIARRAÍ**  
**CORK KERRY**  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

**Priscilla Lynch**  
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7th March, 2023

Mr. Michael Creed, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 8677/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the status of a funding request received from HSE south for community ophthalmology services at a location (details supplied); if funding will be provided for this initiative in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. Details supplied: Ballincollig, Co. Cork**

Dear Deputy Creed,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, South South West Hospital Group and South Infirmary Victoria Hospital are currently working collaboratively to develop a Regional Eye Care Service based in the new Primary Community Care Centre located in Ballincollig Cork. This new service will provide a designated specialised infrastructure where all community procedures related to Ophthalmology will be performed and incorporate Multidisciplinary Team Working between multiple grades of ophthalmology staff to deliver the best outcomes for both children and adults.

This proposal is in alignment with the strategic direction and recommendations of the Primary Care Eye Services Review Group report and the Model of Eye Care under the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Ophthalmology.

The NCP for Ophthalmology recommends the integration of hospital and community care, with clinicians and care providers working in teams, as the best approach to deliver care for patients and to address the structural deficits in the current system. The efficient operation of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) is critical to the delivery of primary eye care. Implementing a more community based model will improve access to care and will help address the current adult and Paediatric waiting list crisis. A clear governance structure for the Multi-Disciplinary Teams, with clinical audits, will ensure that the standards of clinical care are maintained.

The development of modernised care pathways (MCPs) is a core component of the transformation of the delivery of scheduled care services, with the goal of improving access time to services, improving quality of service and delivering care in the best place for the patient. The HSE's Office of the Chief Clinical Officer approved 37 modernised pathways across 16 specialties in 2022, developed in collaboration with clinical, operational and strategic partners. These pathways will be implemented in a phased manner, targeting, in the first instance specialties with the most significant waiting lists.

Three ophthalmology pathways have been approved to date, each to be delivered utilising community-based Integrated Eye Care Teams. The approved pathways for 2023 are the *Cataract Pathway*, the *Medical Retina Pathway* and the *Paediatric Eye Pathway*, which together will enable the realisation of



significant components of the National Model of Care for Ophthalmology. These pathways have been prioritised for immediate commencement.

CKCH have been informed of an initial allocation of funding to commence the development of an integrated eye care service in 2023. Although not the full allocation of funding required, the funding is welcomed in developing the initial phases of the services for Cork and Kerry. A steering group will be convened between CKCH, SSWHG and SIVUH to commence the operationalisation of an integrated eye care service.

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', written in a cursive style.

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