



Oifig um Cheannasáí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair  
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,  
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín  
Luimneach  
Teil: 061 483722

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care  
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare  
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12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Deputy Michael McNamara**  
**Dáil Éireann**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare St.**  
**Dublin 2**

**Re: PQ 32688/23 - "To ask the Minister for Health to outline the status of Podiatry services provided by the HSE in Co. Clare; the status of the service going forward; the number of persons on the waiting list for the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy McNamara,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Podiatry Manager has confirmed that there is currently one Senior Podiatrist and two Staff Grade Podiatrists providing Community Podiatry Services in Co. Clare. She also confirmed that one Senior Podiatrist and one Staff Grade Podiatrist from the Chronic Disease Team (who also cover Limerick City and County) have been concentrating on the Diabetes population in Co. Clare as the number of Diabetes patients awaiting services have been very high.

The Podiatry Manager has advised that the full compliment of staff for Podiatry Services across the Community and Chronic Disease Teams ( 2 teams) in the HSE Mid West area is 22 WTE. There are currently 15 posts vacant across the service and despite a number of recruitment campaigns there has been very little success in backfilling these posts with suitably qualified clinicians. As a result of these vacancies, the Podiatry Manager advised that Community Podiatrists and those attached to the Chronic Disease Teams have been providing cross cover across the CHO3 area. She also advised that the service is prioritising patients who are most at risk of foot ulceration and at risk of admission to hospital.

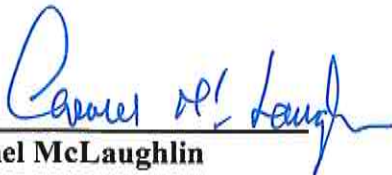
The Podiatry Manager has confirmed that at the end of June there were 466 patients on the waiting list for Community Podiatry Services in Co. Clare. This figure has dropped significantly from a total of 2,221 in January 2023. This reduction was achieved following a review of the waiting lists. A waiting list validation exercise was carried out (e.g. removal of duplicate referrals and those patients no longer requiring service etc.) and the service concentrated on those waiting over 52 weeks for a service. Student Podiatrists on placement were also involved in addressing the wait times for patients.

The table below gives a breakdown in the age of those on the waiting list for Community Podiatry Services in Co. Clare at the end of June:

<b>Age of patient (in years)</b>	<b>0-4</b>	<b>5-17</b>	<b>18-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
<b>No. of patients on waiting list awaiting treatment</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>273</b>

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

**Yours sincerely,**



**Carmel McLaughlin**  
**General Manager**  
**Primary Care**