



Oifig um Cheannasai Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483226

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Ballycummin Ave, Raheen Business Park, Raheen,
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13th June 2023

Deputy Cathal Crowe
4 Francis St.
Ennis
Co. Clare

Re: PQ 27851/23 "To ask the Minister for Health if the GMS contract in place in Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare, requires the contracted GP to have a practice located in the town, or if there is leeway whereby patients can be seen in a practice beyond the town."

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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:

I can advise that under the terms of the GMS contract, a contracted General Practitioner (GP)/GP practice must be located within seven miles of the GMS (medical card) patients on their GMS panel.

In relation to Saffron & Blue Medical Practice which is based on the grounds of Carrigoran House, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare, I can confirm that the HSE and Saffron & Blue have secured an extension for the medical practice to remain on the grounds of Carrigoran House until September 2023.

I can also advise that the HSE is actively engaging with Saffron & Blue regarding future plans for the location of the medical practice in Newmarket on Fergus. I am not in a position to disclose these plans until they have been finalised and all the relevant parties have agreed to same.

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

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Costello
Head of Service
Primary Care