



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.  
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,  
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682  
E: [community.primarycare@hse.ie](mailto:community.primarycare@hse.ie)

26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Deputy Smith,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 30056/23 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will give detailed consideration to the issues raised by a representative organisation (a request by Optometry Ireland for a dedicated national programme for a standardised optometrist led eye-care programme); and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Brendan Smith**

---

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 30056/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is in the process of implementing multidisciplinary community-based Integrated Eye Care teams, which include Optometrists working within the HSE. These teams will facilitate assessment, prioritisation, diagnoses, management and treatment and in some cases pre-op/post-op care, and where required, refer patients to acute Ophthalmology services, enabling most patients to be seen in their own locality, and when required, refer patients onwards for specialist input. In the areas where the new paediatric pathway has been implemented, the paediatric waiting list has been successfully brought within best practice timelines. This new pathway is now being rolled out nationally and we look forward to similar positive results.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations