



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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4th May, 2023

Mr. Brendan Smith T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 20952/23

To ask the Minister for Health the progress to date in having an appointment made (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brendan Smith

(Details) - The need to secure a permanent GP Appointment as soon as possible for Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan

Dear Deputy Smith,

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. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

Under the GMS scheme, the HSE contracts GP's to provide medical services without charge to medical card and GP visit card holders. The Government is aware of the workforce issues currently facing general practices particularly in rural areas. The Government and HSE continue to work together to ensure patients across the country continue to have access to GP services and that general practice is sustainable in all areas into the future. Where a vacancy arises in a practice with a GMS contract, the HSE becomes actively involved in the recruitment process to find a replacement GP. A GP must give the HSE three month's written notice prior to retirement to allow for succession planning.

Regarding the current situation in GP Practice in Swanlinbar, the previous GP retired from the Swanlinbar Single Handed practice on 31/10/2020. The HSE continues to readvertise this post on an ongoing basis and will continue to do so until it is filled. We intend to readvertise this post as well as other upcoming GP vacancies within the next month. The HSE remains unsuccessful in recruiting a GP permanently into this post as none of the applications received to date met the recruitment eligibility criteria including holding the necessary qualifications.

In the interim, the HSE put in place a "Doctor in Charge" in the Swanlinbar practice. This means that the HSE is directly responsible for the provision of medical services to medical card and GP visit card holders assigned to this practice until a new GP is permanently recruited to take charge of this practice. Since 01/11/2020, a GP is providing medical services in the practice following recruitment by the HSE on an interim basis through an agency that holds a contract with the HSE. This arrangement remains in place and is working well.



I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Broadbank'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carole Broadbank
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation