



Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil,
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Mr Denis Naughten TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

24th May 2023

PQ 21833/23 – *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant optometry and ophthalmology roles in primary care services in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter” - Denis Naughten TD*

Dear Deputy Naughten

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 the following outlines the position.

There are currently 9.6 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff employed in optometry and ophthalmology in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC). The service sees an average of 270 patients per week.

| CHO DNCC Optometry & Ophthalmology Roles (Whole Time Equivalent) | |
|---|-----|
| Optometrists | 4 |
| Orthoptists | 2.6 |
| Nurse | 1 |
| Community Ophthalmic Physician | 1 |
| Consultant Ophthalmologist | 1 |

There are currently two vacant Orthoptist positions in the Children's Ophthalmology Clinic. Interviews for these posts are taking place this week.

CHO DNCC Adult Ophthalmology Service will be opening in Ashgrove House, Ashtown, Dublin 7 later this year and we will have four vacant Ophthalmic Technicians positions to fill. It is expected these positions will be advertised to the public in the coming weeks.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Forde
General Manager
Primary Care Dublin North West