



Oifig um Cheannasáí Seirbhíse do Chúram Priombhúil  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair  
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,  
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín,  
Ráithín, Luimneach V94 D1W9  
Teil: 061 483226

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13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Deputy Joe Carey  
Francis Street, Ennis  
Co. Clare

**Re: PQ 49212/23 - "To ask the Minister for Health if the medical centre in a location (Kilrush General Practice, Francis St., Kilrush), which is under the control of the HSE is going to close in January 2024. If so, if the registered patients of the practice will be accommodated by other existing practices in the town; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Carey,

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.

HSE Mid West Community Healthcare has provided a locum doctor to continue the provision of a General Practitioner (GP) service from the Kilrush GP Practice since May 2021.

The HSE has advertised for a doctor to take over this practice on three occasions and no suitable applications were received. In addition, Expressions of Interest were also sent to local GPs, with a view to them taking on this cohort of patients and the HSE has met with GPs to discuss this option. The HSE also engaged with the Irish Medical Organisation throughout this period.

In the absence of suitable applicants to take over the practice, recruitment efforts will continue. During this period, the HSE will continue to provide locum cover at the Kilrush GP practice. The HSE is committed to ensuring that a GP service is available to patients and will be updating them in the coming weeks.

It should be noted that Ireland is experiencing well-documented challenges in the recruitment of GPs, most notably, vacancies in rural areas and single hand practices.

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

Yours sincerely,

Carmel McLaughlin  
General Manager  
Primary Care