

15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Mr. Michael Collins, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 44871/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health when the school dentist (details supplied) in the Mizen Medical Centre will be replaced; if this position has been advertised; when the service is likely to resume; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

**Details supplied: This service which serves a big catchment area in Schull, Ballydehob, Goleen and beyond was suspended in August 2023 has left hundreds of schoolchildren without this vital service. The HSE were aware of this six months prior to the dental surgeon leaving her position.**

Dear Deputy Collins,

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.

The HSE Primary Care Dental Service provides dental treatment to eligible children, medical card holders, adults and children with special needs and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork and Kerry. Children under 16 years of age are treated in HSE dental clinics and adults are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to the Health Services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

HSE Dental Services Cork will endeavour to advertise and fill the vacant dental surgeon post in Schull (Mizen Head PCC) as soon as the HSE recruitment embargo is lifted. The service has found it difficult to fill vacant dental posts generally, especially in West Cork. A number of panellists on an existing HSE Dental Surgeon panel have refused this particular post. However, the vacant post will soon be re-advertised and once filled the service there will resume.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



---

**Susanne O'Sullivan**  
**Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**