



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

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care  
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare  
Ballycummin Ave,  
Raheen Business Park,  
Raheen, Limerick V94 D1W9  
Tel: 061 483226

10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Deputy Niall Collins**  
**Red House Hill**  
**Patrickswell**  
**Co. Limerick**

**Re: PQ 28270/24 - “To ask the Minister for Health if the post of dentist for patients with special needs which has been vacant since January 2024 at a health centre (Roxtown Health Centre) has been advertised; the interest in the position; when the new dentist will take up their post; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Collins,

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.

I can advise that the Senior Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) post became vacant in early February 2024 when the postholder resigned. Approval to backfill this post was given as Dental Surgeon posts were exempted from the HSE recruitment embargo.

I can advise that the HSE has advertised this post on two occasions. It was first advertised on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with a closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and three applications were received from interested candidates. Of the three applicants, one was deemed eligible for interview, however, the eligible candidate did not attend for interview. The post was advertised again on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with a closing date of the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This advertisement attracted no applications.

I can assure you that I am working closely with the Principal Dental Surgeon for the HSE Mid West area in relation to this vacant post. As the new campaign has failed to attract applications from interested candidates, further options/contingency plans will now have to be explored.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Carmel McLaughlin**  
**General Manager**  
**Primary Care**