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30th May, 2024

Mr. Michael Healy-Rae, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 22584/24**

**"To ask the Minister for Health if there is a dietitian service in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

**Details supplied: "Minister I have constituents who are waiting up to 6 years to be seen by a dietitian in Co Kerry. Is this service not available as 6 years is an extraordinary length of time to be waiting."**

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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 reviewed Primary Care Waiting list for Dietetics in Kerry and there is no client waiting 6 years to be seen. I can confirm 59% of patients are waiting under 52 weeks. As of 1st May 2024 there are 1860 patients on Primary Care Waiting list.

Currently only 33% of dietitian posts in Kerry are filled, the HSE recruitment pause continues to negatively impact on same and along with a national shortage of dietitians.

Please note that Dietetic prioritisation criteria ensures that we are seeing urgent cases in a timely manner.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

