



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken,
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny.

Telephone: +353 56 7784100

18/09/2024

Deputy Mattie McGrath TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 34139/24

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2277 on 23/07/2024, the number of Ophthalmology appointments offered in 2023; if there has been inquiries made of the WTE posts allocated to the Ophthalmology department, and the plans to allocate more; and if the national treatment purchase fund is being considered to shorten the waiting list and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

I can confirm that the total number of patients seen in 2023 was 2,175 patients. This comprised of 592 new patients seen and 1,553 existing patients seen in the year.

Currently in South Tipperary, the service is resourced by 1.0 Whole Time Equivalent Ophthalmologist and a 0.3 Whole Time Equivalent (sessional) Orthoptist. The 1.0 Whole Time Equivalent Ophthalmologist post holder in South Tipperary is due to retire. The necessary paperwork has been completed in advance of this retirement & is currently in the recruitment process.

My understanding is the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) applies to cataract patients waiting more than 1 year, this is organised in University Hospital Waterford.

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

Yours sincerely,

Anna-Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare