



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

Telephone: +353 56 7784100

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Mr John McGuinness TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 16632/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health if podiatrist services are available in Carlow & Kilkenny; if not, when the services were last available; and her intentions to restore a full level of service.**

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

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 wish to confirm that there is currently a Podiatry Service operating across Carlow/Kilkenny. All referrals are prioritised which allows the service to focus on clients with the highest clinical needs. There are currently 400 clients availing of the service and therefore new referrals to the service is limited at present.

The Carlow/Kilkenny Chronic Disease Hub also provides a Chiropody Service to patients with Type 2 Diabetes under the Chronic Disease Management programme and there are currently 800 clients availing of this service.

The HSE acknowledges that current waiting times for Podiatry services are stressful for patients and families. The Carlow/Kilkenny Primary Care Podiatry service continues to address the waiting list in chronological order.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Paul Goff**  
**A/Head of Service-Primary Care**  
**South East Community Healthcare**