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24th April 2025

Deputy Donna McGettigan
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 17667/25 - "To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE Senior Dental Surgeons in Special Needs within CHO3 in 2024 and to date in 2025 in tabular form."

Dear Deputy McGettigan,

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.

The Principal Dental Surgeon has confirmed that the number of Senior Dental Surgeons (Special Needs) within the HSE Mid West area (CHO3) in 2024 and 2025 (to date) is as follows:

Year	WTE value – Senior Dental Surgeons (Specials Needs) HSE Mid West area (Limerick, Clare & Nth. Tipperary)	
	Approved WTE	Actual WTE
2024	3	2.4 (reduced to 1.6 from February 2024)*
2025 (to date)	3	1.6

*The Snr. Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) post covering East Limerick/Nth. Tipperary became vacant in February 2024 due to the resignation of the post holder. Despite running a number of recruitment campaigns, the HSE Mid West has been unsuccessful to date in recruiting a suitably qualified Dental Surgeon to fill this vacant role. I can assure you that I am working closely with the Principal Dental Surgeon and we are exploring further options/contingency plans in relation to the filling of this vital role within the Community Dental Service.

I trust that the above information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care