



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

Telephone: +353 56 7784100

23/04/2025

Mr. David Cullinane TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ 18321/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 390 of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025, if she will specify the current stage of the recruitment process concerned; the expected timeframe for said post to be filled; the specific interim measures put in place to enable a resumption in services locally; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.*

The Community Ophthalmologist Physician (COP) Post became vacant following a retirement on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

I wish to confirm that an application to fill the post of Community Ophthalmologist was completed and submitted in line with HSE recruitment policy. In line with National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology Model of Eye Care 2016 and the Modernised Eye Care Pathway - the Community Ophthalmologist Physician position is being regraded to the position of Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist.

This process is underway in association with the National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology and for onward submission to the Consultant Application Advisory Committee. In the interim, a replacement locum Ophthalmologist is being sought until a permanent Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist is in post. The Interim Ophthalmologist post has been advertised and several applicants have expressed their interest in this post. Applicants are currently being shortlisted and interviews are due to take place in the coming weeks. Please be assured that once this process is complete, the eye clinic at Community Care, Western Road, Clonmel will resume services. The HSE acknowledges the impact on service users (both paediatric and adults).

For urgent eye care issues, patients from the South Tipperary area may be referred to the Eye Department Service via the Emergency Department pathway at University Hospital Waterford by their General Practitioner.

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**