

**Head of Service Primary Care**

HSE Integrated Health Area,  
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**14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Mr. Barry Heneghan T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Email: [barry.heneghan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:barry.heneghan@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ 8937/25** – *“To ask the Minister for Health the new measures she will implement to urgently address the chronic shortage of clinical staff resources across Dublin northside and the wider country”* – **Barry Heneghan TD**

Dear Deputy Heneghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There are currently 20.8 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff employed in the Ophthalmology department of the Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West. There are two clinical vacancies, see details below. We are working in conjunction with the Mater Hospital to see pre-operative and post-operative Cataract patients through the Modernised Care Pathway Scheme. We have seen 3,000 patients in the last year through this MCP scheme.

Of note our current wait time in the Children's Ophthalmology Department is 8 weeks with urgent appointments offered within 1 to 2 days of referral being received.

Integrated Health Area Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West	
Ophthalmology	
Vacancy Type	Number of WTE vacancies
Senior Orthoptist	1
RGN	1

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

Yours sincerely,

**Michelle Forde**  
**Head of Service Primary Care**  
**HSE Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and**  
**Dublin North City & West**