



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Priomhúil
FSS Meán Iarthair

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11th July 2025

Deputy Willie O'Dea
2 Glenview Gardens
Farranshane
Limerick

Re: PQ 36217/25 - "To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE has not reinstated a podiatry clinic in Barrack View Health Centre, Edward St., Limerick, which has not been held since March 2025; when it will be reinstated; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

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 Podiatry Manager confirmed that the Community Podiatry Service have provided a podiatry service for Diabetic patients at Barrack View Health Centre since 2017. She advised that between August 2023 and January 2025, there was one (1 WTE) Community Podiatrist covering all of Limerick City & County. This Podiatrist resigned from her post at the end of January 2025, and to date, the service have been unsuccessful in filling the vacant post due to a shortage of qualified podiatrists.

The Podiatry Manager wishes to assure you that the service will continue to advertise this vacancy and, it can be anticipated that when the vacant post is filled, the service will have the capacity to offer further podiatry clinics throughout Limerick.

The Community Podiatry Service is obliged to clinically prioritise patients in the Active Ulcer and Remission Ulcer categories due to their risk of hospitalisation and vulnerability to ulceration which can lead to amputation, if they are not seen in a timely manner. The Podiatry Manager advised that at present, Diabetes Podiatrists from within the service are providing cross cover to ensure that higher risk patients from Limerick continue to receive a podiatry service and these patients are being seen at Barrack View Primary Care Centre.

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

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Finucane
General Manager Primary Care