



Office of the Head of Primary Care  
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23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Mr Michael Murphy TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ 40442/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2426 of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the status of filling the post for an Ophthalmologist in Clonmel, the absence of which is causing lengthy waiting times for routine and urgent referrals; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 can confirm that interviews for a replacement locum Ophthalmologist took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025. A panel was formed, and the successful candidate was processed through the HSE HR recruitment process. I understand that the necessary documentation has been submitted and it is anticipated that the successful candidate will commence in post in August 2025.

In the interim, any 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.

The HSE acknowledges the impact on service users, both children and adults.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Paul Goff**  
**A/Head of Service-Primary Care**  
**IHA Carlow Kilkenny & Tipperary South**  
**IHA Waterford & Wexford**