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18th June 2025

Deputy Alan Kelly
1 Summerhill, Nenagh
Co. Tipperary

Re: PQ 29828/25 - "To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to fill the role of the Senior Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) post in North Tipperary area which has been vacant for over two years."

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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 post of Senior Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) became vacant in February 2024 (16 months ago) following the resignation of the post holder. The vacant post was approved for filling and to date, has been advertised on three separate occasions by the HSE. The Principal Dental Surgeon confirmed that the advertisement also appeared in the digital version of the Irish Dental Associations' vacant positions publication.

The Principal Dental Surgeon confirmed that the first recruitment campaign attracted one qualified application who did not present for interview. The two subsequent campaigns (most recent in May 2025) attracted no applications from interested candidates. The Principal Dental Surgeon advised that Dental Surgeons already employed within the HSE Dental Service were also encouraged to consider applying for the 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 the above information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care