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3rd July 2025

Deputy Joe Cooney
Lower Market St., Ennis
Co. Clare

Re: PQ 32603/25 - “To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will run an international recruitment campaign to recruit a suitable qualified Senior Dental Surgeon with a interest in Special Needs, for the CHO3 area”.

Dear Deputy Cooney,

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 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.

The Principal Dental Surgeon advised that it is open to qualified dental surgeons based internationally to submit an application for a position advertised on the HSE website if they are interested in doing so. The eligibility criteria attached to the post is outlined within the advertisement. The Principal Dental Surgeon has advised that the eligibility criteria for the Snr. Dental Surgeon post includes the following:

Professional Qualifications, Experience, etc.

- i. Hold a Degree, Licence or Diploma in Dental Surgery/Dental Science.
- and
- ii. Be registered in the Register of Dentists for Ireland or be entitled to be so registered.
- and
- iii. Have had since becoming eligible under paragraph (a), (i) above at least three years satisfactory experience (in the practice of public health dentistry or of hospital dentistry or a combination of both).
- and



- iv. Candidates must possess a high standard of professional knowledge and ability (including a high standard of suitability) and have a satisfactory knowledge of the administrative aspects of the dental services for the proper discharge of the duties of the office.

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