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Mr. George Lawlor TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 14181/25

To ask the Minister for Health the status of Ophthalmology Clinics in County Wexford; the days on which the services are operational; the locations of these clinics; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lawlor,

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 the Wexford Primary Care Ophthalmology Service provides Medical Eye Care and Treatment to all eligible patients. The Ophthalmic clinics are provided in 4 Network areas, which include New Ross, Gorey, Wexford, and Enniscorthy. Medical Ophthalmology clinics are held in each network one day per week, and Diagnostic clinics and Orthoptic clinics are held weekly.

This service provides ophthalmic care and treatment to Pre-school and Primary School Children. Referrals can be forwarded from General Practitioners, Consultant Paediatricians, Ophthalmic Consultants, Public Health Nurses, and Opticians. Adults who are General Medical cardholders can be referred by General Practitioners, Consultants, and Opticians.

New patients are waiting less than 12 weeks for Adults and 20 weeks for children, with children identified as priority being seen in less than 12 weeks. The Wexford Primary Care Ophthalmology waiting lists are regularly validated, and there is a computerised register of Patients. The rollout of the modernised Eye Care Plan will also allow further Integration of services with the Tertiary Hospitals. In addition, accommodation and equipment in New Ross is currently being updated.

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

Yours sincerely,

Paul Goff
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare