



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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113th May 2025

Mr. Michael Murphy TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 23186/25

To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the vacancy for Primary Care, South Tipperary Ophthalmologist, following the planned retirement of the Ophthalmologist in October 2024: 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.

The process of recruitment of a replacement Ophthalmologist in South Tipperary is under way in association with the National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology and for onward submission to the Consultant Application Advisory Committee. In the interim, a replacement locum Ophthalmologist is being sought until a permanent Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist is in post. The interim Ophthalmologist post has been advertised and several applicants have expressed their interest. Applicants are currently being shortlisted and interviews are planned for 19th May 2025.

For 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 paediatric and adults).

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

Yours sincerely,

Tara Hunt
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare