



Office of the Head of Primary Care
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14th October 2025

Mattie McGrath TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 54016/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the recruitment campaign for the consultant ophthalmologist position in south Tipperary is being advertised as a temporary position; the reason this post is not being advertised as a permanent position, making it more attractive; the number who have applied for the post in this new recruitment campaign; the number who applied for the post in the last recruitment campaign; whether it is correct that four people applied for the position; the reason a panel was not formed and the position offered to one of the other applicants; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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 for filling new medical posts must go through the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC). While awaiting permanent approval, the first recruitment campaign for the post was advertised on a temporary basis.

This post has now been approved for permanent filling. During the initial campaign, only one candidate was interviewed for the South Tipperary position. Although this candidate was successful at interview, they declined the offer for personal reasons.

As no panel was created for South Tipperary following the first campaign, a second recruitment campaign was launched, with a closing date of 24th September. The HSE has received a substantial number of applications for this permanent position.

The standard processing timeframe for recruitment is:

- Approximately 10 working days from the closing date for interview invitations to be issued, and
- Around one month post-interview to complete reference checks, Garda vetting, and allow for notice periods and leave before the successful candidate can commence in post.

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
IHA Carlow Kilkenny & Tipperary South
IHA Waterford & Wexford