



Office of the Head of Primary Care  
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9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ 45939/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health to outline the date in which the new ophthalmologist appointed in South Tipperary will take up their post; the number of children waiting to be seen by the ophthalmologist; the plan to reduce the waiting lists for those who have missed out on appointments while there was no ophthalmologist; 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 HSE has engaged in a full recruitment campaign for the Consultant Ophthalmologist in South Tipperary and a successful candidate was appointed in late July. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, the successful candidate subsequently declined the post before the commencement date. The HSE will undertake another recruitment campaign in the coming weeks.

As communicated previously, parents can avail of Ophthalmology services via University Hospital Waterford Ophthalmology.

Below is the waiting list data for Ophthalmology South Tipperary service:

|                                                                |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| No of children (<18) waiting for Ophthalmology treatment       | 1783        |
| No of PHN referrals for children awaiting triage for treatment | 541         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                   | <b>2324</b> |

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**