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23/09/2025

Mr. Michael Murphy TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 47946/25

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No 552 of 17/07/2025, and her Departments reply of 23/07/2025 indicating that a successful candidate for the Ophthalmologist post in Clonmel would commence duty in August 2025; the reason that no Ophthalmologist is currently in place; the steps being taken to immediately fill this critical vacancy; the interim measures being provided to address the growing backlog of both routine and urgent Ophthalmology referrals in South Tipperary; 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.

I can confirm that the HSE engaged a full recruitment campaign for the Consultant Ophthalmologist in South Tipperary. An interview board was set up and interviews undertaken, the result of which was one successful candidate. The successful candidate was appointed to the post in late July 2025; however, due to personal circumstances, they subsequently declined the post before the commencement date.

I wish to advise that the HSE has undertaken a second recruitment campaign in the last number of weeks. The post was re-advertised on a temporary basis in the Irish College of Ophthalmologists. The closing date for applications is Thursday, 25/09/2025. In the meantime, patients can avail of Ophthalmology Services via the University Hospital Waterford, Ophthalmology Department.

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