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01/10/2025

Deputy David Cullinane TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 49024/25

To ask the Minister for Health to confirm if the Consultant working in a clinic (details supplied) has retired; if the vacancy has been filled; if the children waiting to be seen need to be seen by a consultant; if a vacancy is causing delays; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Details: The public eye clinic in Waterford

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 Community Ophthalmic Physician for Waterford retired on 31/03/2025. I can confirm that this post has been filled, and a new Intern Ophthalmologist is due to start on 06/10/2025. Additionally, the Permanent Consultant post has been approved and is currently undergoing the HSE recruitment process.

I understand that the vacancy has unfortunately caused delays. However, the Ophthalmologist will hold a dedicated children's clinic every Friday to address the backlog. Children currently waiting to see the Consultant Ophthalmologist will be seen in the order of their position on the waiting list.

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