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18th May, 2018

Deputy Noel Grealish, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Grealish,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 18179/18

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in nursing homes under the fair deal scheme that have a family home registered in their name which is included as part of the assessment for the scheme; the number of these houses that still have a spouse or family member residing in the property; the number of these family homes that are rented and generating an income; the number of these houses that are vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme is a scheme of financial support for people who need long term nursing home care. Under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme, people make a contribution towards the cost of their care, based on their assessed means and the State pays the balance. The number of people supported under the scheme as at March 2018 was 22,795.

As part of the application process, a financial assessment is undertaken to determine a person's contribution to his/her care and the corresponding level of financial support paid by the HSE. The financial assessment takes account of the income and assets of the person (*and partner*) at the time of application.

During 2016, the HSE undertook an analysis of home ownership and found that 61% of nursing homes support scheme clients had a principal private residence included in their financial assessment.

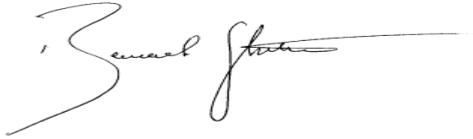
However, it should be noted that the HSE does not retain on an on-going basis, information in respect of the status or occupancy of all clients' principal private residences after clients are admitted to a nursing home under the scheme. As a result, the position in regard to whether principal private residences still have a spouse or family member residing in the principal residence or if the residence has become vacant at any given stage is not available to the HSE.

In regard to the number of principal residences that are rented, the HSE can only provide information in respect of residents that are in receipt of financial support under the scheme who have a principal residence and also have rental income. The HSE is not in a position to confirm if the rental income

relates to the principal residence. There are just over 600 residents that have both a principal residence and rental income included in their means assessment.

I trust the above clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernard Gloster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bernard Gloster
Interim Head of Operations and Service Improvement, Services for Older People
Social Care Division, HSE