



13th January 2020

**Deputy Louise O'Reilly ,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ Ref. No. 51950/19 -“To ask the Minister for Health the operational status of each primary care centre that is under construction, planning phase, opened and so on; the healthcare and medical staff working in each operational primary care centre by occupation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Louise O'Reilly”

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 51950/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Primary care involves the promotion of healthy lifestyles and keeping people well, providing health care at the lowest level of complexity and as close as possible to where people live, and providing person-centred care based on assessed need and through multidisciplinary working. The primary care setting is considered the appropriate setting to meet the majority of health and social services needs with the potential to prevent development of conditions that might later require hospitalisation, and facilitation of earlier discharge from hospital.

Since 2001, a key strategic priority of the Department of Health (the Department) has been the strengthening of the primary care system in Ireland in order to provide;

- a system that is the first and ongoing point of contact for people within the health care system
- integrated, inter-disciplinary, high quality, team-based and user-friendly services
- enhanced capacity in the areas of disease prevention, rehabilitation and personal social services.

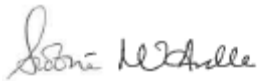
The model of primary care envisaged in the strategy included provision of a national network of primary care centres (PCCs) each accommodating one or more primary care teams (PCTs) supported by a wider network of health and social care professionals, collectively providing services to meet the needs of the local population. Services provided include health promotion, screening for disease, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, and personal and social services. Primary care services available within PCCs are provided in the main by both contracted providers, such as GPs, and employees of the Health Service Executive (HSE).

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains the total number of operating Primary Care Centres, Primary Care centres due for operation in both 2020 and 2021, as well as information on Primary Care Centres under construction and in different phases of planning as requested.

Information on staffing levels in Primary Care is gathered in the HSE census data by care group, discipline and geographical area (e.g. CHO, former LHO). However the data does not provide information to the level of building location, therefore it is not currently possible, using existing data management systems, to map multi-disciplinary Primary Care Teams to named buildings/Primary Care Centres. The attached appendix (2) outlines employee data at Primary Care Centre level, which was collected in 2019 for the Deputy.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations