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31st July 2019

Deputy John Brassil,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 25337/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the additional procedures put in place to safeguard persons in the community that await a service; if the timeframe for reviewing the needs of persons has been narrowed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-John Brassil

Dear Deputy Brassil,

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

Where an individual who is currently awaiting access to services has a change/deterioration in clinical circumstances, the first port of call should be to their General Practitioner. There are a range of options open to the assessing clinician for onward referral in both primary and secondary care settings depending on the nature of the presenting circumstances.

Waiting lists are monitored on an on-going basis by the Chief Officers, along with the Head of Operations in each CHO to ensure that those with the greatest level of need are supported, while working within available budgets.

The Slaintecare Action Plan 2019 sets out a very significant programme of work aimed at developing and improving health and social care generally, with significant emphasis on increased community-based supports.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations