



Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair &  
Tuaisceart Chontae  
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare  
Organisation  
Dublin North City &  
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Sóisialta,  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae  
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2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

Ms. Joan Collins, TD  
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Dublin 2.

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**Our Reference: 22280/22267**

**PQ 12149/19**

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a cost to those using emergency accommodation provided by the HSE for Nursing staff of a hospital ( details supplied ) over the past five years”

**PQ 12244/19**

“To ask the Minister for Health if emergency accommodation is provided by the HSE for Nursing Staff of St. Mary’s Hospital at a location (details supplied) occupied by the National Ambulance Service DNL and if so, the number of managers of the service have used the accommodation facility in the past five years”

Details supplied: St. Mary’s Hospital in the Phoenix Hall

Dear Deputy

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise that staff based in St. Mary’s Hospital may use the staff home located on the grounds as an emergency accommodation to facilitate the safe operation of the Hospital and on these occasions the staff would not be liable for a charge. The staff home was used during Storm Emma in March 2018 when a number of staff used this facility to ensure that there was sufficient staff on site to care for residents. Four staff used this facility on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and six staff used it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. These staff members were not charged for the use of the home during this period as they were facilitating the hospital to provide a safe staffing level.

There was a historical arrangement where staff who worked in St. Mary’s Hospital availed of the facilities of the staff home on a far more frequent basis. A decision was made a number of years ago to cease this practice for any new staff members. However, there are two existing staff members who continue to avail of this facility on a personal-to-holder basis. Neither of these staff members are managers. Since January 2019 one staff member has stayed for 11 nights and the other has stayed 10 nights. These staff members pay for this accommodation through their payroll in line with the “Staff Meal and Accommodation Charges Circular 2016”.

An internal review of the purpose and function of the staff home will be carried out by Q3 2019.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any further queries please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Mairead Lyons**  
Head of Service - Social Care