



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Príomhoifigeach ECSP Ceantar 8
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin
Oifig an Cheantair
Bóthar an Ardáin
An Tulach Mhór
Co Uíbh Fhailí

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15th November, 2019

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE PQ 44188/19: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ensure that the north east doctor on call is not removed from Navan, County Meath even on a temporary basis in view of the fact there are a number of alternative sites within the town that could house the unit.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question and Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

The North East Doctor On-Call Service (NEDOC) is a partnership between the HSE and participating GPs in the North East Region. NEDOC provides urgent GP out-of-hours services to patients of participating practices from 6pm to 8am weekdays and 24 hours weekends and public holidays. NEDOC covers counties Cavan, Monaghan, Meath and Louth (*excluding Dundalk*).

The North East Doctor On-Call Service (NEDOC) for county Meath which currently operates from port-a-cabins on the site of Our Lady's Hospital Navan will relocate on a temporary basis to Dunshaughlin Health Care Unit with effect from Tuesday 26th November 2019.

By way of background to this temporary move, as you may be aware in discussions with your constituents who have attended the NEDOC Centre in Navan, GPs or HSE staff working in the current environment, the current port-a-cabin at Our Lady's Hospital in Navan is long past, being fit-for-purpose, for service delivery and is no longer suitable for use, hence on-going discussions for many years to move.

It has been agreed previously, that the ultimate location for the NEDOC Service in Navan, will be from the new HSE Primary Care Centre planned for Navan. Regrettably this has not progressed at a pace that had been initially hoped, although HSE remains committed to this project. (This should be considered phase/move 3).

Whilst the work on the Primary Care Centre progresses, the HSE has looked at multiple options over multiple years for interim accommodation in Navan and in Summer 2019, signed a heads of agreement with a Property Owner in Navan to relocate the services to a property there. We had hoped to move in there before Winter 2019.

There has been acceptance that another winter pressure period and associated demands cannot be accommodated in the current accommodation in the interest of service users, staff and GPs.

Unfortunately the property identified in Navan is not just ready for Winter 2019/20 but will be for March 2020.

Accordingly, the decision has been taken to temporarily base the NEDOC service from Navan to Dunshaughlin Primary Health Care Centre in advance of Winter Pressure Period 2019/20. (This should be considered phase/move 1).

We will then move back to Navan to the recently acquired property by the end of March 2020. (This should be considered phase/move 2).

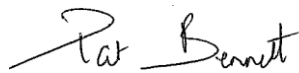
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|--------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Phase/Move 1 | NEDOC temporarily moving from Navan to Dunshaughlin Primary Care Centre | 26 th November 2019 |
| Phase/Move 2 | NEDOC moving back to Navan to recently acquired property | March 2020 |
| Phase/Move 3 | NEDOC to move into new Primary Care Centre in Navan | To be Confirmed |

There will be no reduction in the NEDOC GP OOH service provision during this time

Finally the Hospital Management, have been kept informed of these moves and we are not aware of any concern being expressed by Hospital staff in respect of the moves.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Pat Bennett
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation