



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil  
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care  
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25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Deputy Pearse Doherty, TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ ref: 48542/19: To ask the Minister for Health the treatment and community support services available to lymphoedema patients in County Donegal.**

Dear Deputy Doherty,

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

The Lymphoedema Service provided by the Donegal Public Health Nursing Service is currently available at Killygordon and Falcarragh Health Centres. The nurses provide the service to a limited number of patients, as this service is additional to their existing Public Health Nursing (PHN) caseload, i.e. there is no dedicated additional nursing resource available for lymphoedema care.

Two physiotherapists within the Community Physiotherapy Service provide assessment and treatment to patients with lymphoedema in South and East Donegal. One of the physiotherapists providing the lymphoedema service is on the National Focus Group for the Development of Clinical Guidelines and Pathway for Lymphoedema.

In 2019, due to the increasing number of referrals to this service, a joint PHN and Community Physiotherapy Services submission was made to Slaintecare Innovation Funding to develop a lymphoedema service in Co Donegal, based on the national model of care. However, this submission was unsuccessful.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dermot".

Dermot Monaghan,  
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