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Deputy Pearse Doherty Dáil Éireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2.

8th October 2019

PQ ref 37166/19

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the HSE proposals with respect to the future of Lifford Community Hospital post-2021; if health services offered at the facility will be preserved as part of plans to redevelop the unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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 with respect to the future of Lifford Community Hospital.

An assessment of the current building structure and plan indicates that the facility has a number of challenging factors to enable the delivery of high quality, dignified nursing care.

The building would require extensive demolitions, renovations and upgrading throughout.

The original building structure and site severely challenge the delivery of nursing services in line with HIQA standards and requirements. The report found that the continued delivery of nursing care in Lifford to meet the local needs would be better achieved in a newly built facility that will permit patient care in a dignified manner and without compromises.

The development of Lifford Community Hospital on the existing site is not deemed viable. The need for additional beds and the potential to develop a new facility on a green field site will be reviewed further post 2021 when new census data is available and the recommended capital programme is advanced.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Acting GM on behalf of

Martin Collum General Manager Services for Older Persons CHO 1.