

8th October 2019

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 38455/19

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to an employment issue for healthcare workers (details supplied) in County Cork.”

Details Supplied: St Vincent’s Centre <https://medium.com/@SIPTU/siptu-calls-on-revenue-to-end-employment-limbo-for-workers-in-st-vincents-centre-cork-40d43e67970>

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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

St Vincent’s centre is located on a campus that is owned by the Religious Sisters of Charity and was operated by St. Vincent’s Centre Designated Activity Centre (DAC). The premises were leased by the congregation to St Vincent’s Centre DAC on a long term lease. The Sisters have always been represented on the Board of Directors of the St Vincent’s Centre DAC.

The company that was running the service, St. Vincent’s Centre DAC, withdrew without notice from service provision in March 2017. The HSE/Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was then required under law (Section 64.4 of the Health Act 2007) to take on responsibility for the centre on an interim basis, pending a transfer to a suitable disability service provider.

At all times, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare have worked to provide stability and continuity for the vulnerable residents and the staff who look after them.

We are pleased that Cope Foundation is to take over the running of the centre, as this is a positive move for both residents and staff, bringing certainty and stability and providing opportunities for the future. Separately, work is continuing on the processes required to bring this transfer about which includes legal mediation between the HSE and the Religious Sisters of Charity.

Notwithstanding the fact that under the Health Act our involvement has been on a temporary basis, we have also worked to engage with all stakeholders, including the Revenue Commissioners.

Although our involvement is on an interim basis, we have worked to address many of the challenging legacy issues at St Vincent’s, unfortunately some remain outstanding.

We are very conscious of the impact of the current situation in both residents and staff, which arises from the withdrawal of the company in 2017. We continue to make every effort to engage with the Sisters of Charity and their representatives to resolve the outstanding issues for residents and staff.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.



Ms. Jackie Daly,
General Manager Cork South & Kerry Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

