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To ask the Minister for Health his plans to recommence respite service at Lifford Hospital; the time frame for resumption of this service; 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.

Following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, respite services had to be suspended at Lifford Community Hospital in accordance with infection and prevention control guidance. The resumption of planned respite services is determined by NPHET / Public Health guidelines and COVID-19 risk assessment. Management at Lifford Community Hospital are currently awaiting national guidance regarding the recommencement of respite services at the community hospital.

In the meantime, additional funding has been allocated for Home Care Packages/home respite which may be accessed through the Home Care Service and the local PHN Service.

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

Yours sincerely

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Martin Collum General Manager Services for Older Persons CHO 1.