



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
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Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
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18 December 2020

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 43988/20

To ask the Minister for Health the process which must be gone through before HIQA and or the HSE decides to become directly involved in the running of a nursing home due to concerns regarding that home (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. (details supplied)

The HSE are currently providing support to the vast majority of private nursing homes in the state offering various interventions such as infection prevention and control advice, deployments of staff to nursing homes where indicated and clinically necessary, and any other such supports available to the HSE which can be deployed to support private nursing home providers (please note the list of supports above is not exhaustive). In addition, the HSE administers the Temporary Assistance Payment scheme to private nursing home operators aimed at financially support nursing homes with additional costs incurred as a result of Covid_19. Further, the HSE provides a full range of PPE to all nursing home operators in the state. At present the support to the nursing home sector is coordinated through one of our 23 Covid Response Teams led by HSE Community Healthcare Organisations.

In reference to the private nursing home operator in your correspondence, the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) (Chief Inspector) made an application to the district court under Section 58 of the Health Act seeking an order from the court to enforce a decision to deregister the nursing home in question. The Judge granted the order on foot of the Regulator's application and the provider did not contest the order. As a result of this action, a court order made under the Health Act (2007) directed the HSE to become the provider of last resort as part of the regulatory response in relation to concerns about this private nursing home. The HSE complied with the order and acted to secure the safety and wellbeing of the residents. While the HSE involvement in the operation will be on an interim and temporary basis, the HSE want to reassure the residents and their families the welfare of those residents is our primary concern.

In other circumstances where the HSE have concerns relating to the welfare of residents of private nursing homes, these are reported to the regulator for their consideration. The HSE are unable to intervene in any private nursing



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home in the absence of consent from the provider or on foot of a court order. It should be noted the HSE and the regulator (HIQA) are in regular discussion in respect of nursing homes whether private, voluntary or public. In addition, our Covid Response Teams are in regular communication with nursing home providers.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.