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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 43992/20

To ask the Minister for Health the name and number of nursing homes taken over by the HSE and HIQA since January 2020; the reason for doing so; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The HSE, on foot of court orders obtained by the regulator, HIQA, has been ordered to take over two private nursing homes during 2020.

In addition, the HSE has been supporting the vast majority of privately operated nursing homes since the beginning of the current pandemic through our Covid Response Teams.

Further to the court orders obtained by the regulator as above, in relation to private nursing homes, the HSE has intervened in a number of nursing homes since Q1 2020 in response to regulatory concerns from HIQA about the welfare of residents, the support from the HSE included but was not limited to; infection prevention and control advice, redeployments of HSE staff; redeployment of specialist nurses; provision of PPE; deployment of cleaning staff; support with testing staff and residents and administrative support.

The HSE continues to regularly engage with the regulator (HIQA) to ensure where appropriate and available, all supports to maintain resident safety are made available from the HSE to support privately operated nursing homes.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

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