



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
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30th July 2020

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

Re: Parliamentary Question 17559/20: *“To ask the Minister for Health when HSE chiropody and podiatry services will resume in County Donegal; if his attention has been drawn to the impact on service users while services have been suspended; 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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many services, including the podiatry service, were restricted in order to address the public health implications of the virus. In addition, staff across the services had to be redeployed to COVID-specific services such as Community Testing. A number of COVID-related measures also had to be taken in relation to HSE facilities being repurposed to meet the needs of inpatients in Community Hospitals.

More recently, the HSE has been planning for the safe resumption of services in line with public health requirements and this has included the development of virtual health consultations. Preparations are advancing to ensure the safe re-opening of services in the recommended time frame set out by the *Safe Return to Health Service, Restoring health and social care services in a COVID environment*, July 2020, which indicates the reopening of Primary Care therapeutic services and Early Intervention Services in Phase 2, i.e. September - November 2020.

The Donegal Podiatry Service is also developing plans for the resumption of routine clinics and when these are complete and approved by the CHO1 Covid-19 Crisis Management Team, routine podiatry services and appointments will resume in Co Donegal.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dermot".

Dermot Monaghan,
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