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22 June 2020

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

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: 10423/20

To ask the Minister for Health the details of the guidance the Health Protection Surveillance Centre wrote for the nursing home and homecare sector on Covid-19 infection and transmission prevention; the way in which this guidance issued; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
-Richard Boyd Barrett.

I attach the current guidelines *Interim Public Health and Infection Prevention Control Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks in Residential Care*. The HSE issued this guidance document to the Chief Officers and Heads of Social Care, for each Community Healthcare Organisation, the CEO of Nursing Homes Ireland and HIQA on 3 June 2020.

I also attach *the Guidance on the transfer of hospitalised patients from an acute hospital to a residential care facility in the context of the global COVID-19 epidemic*. The HSE issued this guidance document directly to the Heads of Social Care, for each Community Healthcare Organisation, on 10 March 2020.

Yours Sincerely,

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

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