



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Head of Service -Older People  
South East Community Healthcare  
Lacken, Dublin Road  
Kilkenny  
R95NV08

15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Mr. Mattie McGrath T.D.  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 10451/29**

**To ask the Minister for Health when St. Brigid's Hospital, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary will be returned to its normal operations; the reason the hospital has been kept idle when the numbers of cases in County Tipperary no longer justify this approach; if he will give a written commitment regarding the future of the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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

*I have reviewed that matter and the following is the position.*

St. Brigid's Hospital provides convalescent, respite and palliative care and is registered with the independent regulatory body Health Information & Quality Authority (HIQA) to accommodate up to 16 residents. In the current Covid-19 pandemic public health emergency, St. Brigid's has been designated as a "step down" Covid-19 care facility to serve the South Tipperary area.

Interim arrangements are in place for patients requiring residential convalescent, respite and palliative care to be accommodated elsewhere in the HSE's community healthcare services in the South Tipperary area.

The demand for such Covid-19 care step down beds at St. Brigid's has reduced in recent weeks. There is a critical requirement for staff elsewhere in community healthcare services at this time and admission to St. Brigid's has been temporarily suspended. Admissions for step down Covid-19 related care at St. Brigid's will resume when required.

Indications, per the specialist public health advice on the subject, are that Covid-19 pandemic measures will remain in place for an undefined time to come. In our commitment to ensuring that the South Tipperary area is adequately served with a series of measures for the duration of this action, including the availability of a Covid-19 step down care facility such as that at Carrick on Suir should it be required, the HSE is consequently not in the position to advise when St. Brigid's might resume operation as a community hospital. The HSE can, however, confirm that continued provision is in place for the delivery of convalescent, respite and palliative care service to patients that require it in the South Tipperary area.

I trust that this is of assistance. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Murphy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**Ms. Barbara Murphy**  
**Head of Service for Older People**  
**South East Community Healthcare**