



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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

**PQ 10688/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the locations all staff from St. Brigids Hospital, Carrick-on-Suir have been redeployed to resulting in the closure of the hospital; the numbers of staff employed by the HSE in CHO5 in response to the Be on Call for Ireland campaign; the number of staff that responded to same in CHO5; the reason staff could not have been taken from this campaign to meet the needs of staff across the county to allow staff in St. Brigid's Hospital to continue to provide respite and convalescent services there; when staff previously employed in St. Brigid's will return there; 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 services. 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. Due to the current lack of demand Covid-19 care step down beds at St. Brigid's and the critical requirement for staff elsewhere in community healthcare services at this time, admission to St. Brigid's has been temporarily suspended.

South East Community Healthcare appreciates the commitment of the excellent team of staff associated with St. Brigid's in taking up redeployment in Covid-19 related roles in community healthcare services. Staff have been redeployed to both public and private facilities including Waterford Residential Community Centre, St. Patrick's Cashel, St. Anthony's Clonmel and The Little Sisters Nursing Home Waterford. These arrangements will be kept under review.

The "Be on Call for Ireland" campaign was aimed at all healthcare professionals from all disciplines who were not already working in the public health services to register to be on call for Ireland during this public health emergency pandemic. The main priority of this national project was to provide "job ready" health care professionals to the health services. It is understood that there were nineteen applications received for South East Community Healthcare (covering the counties of Carlow/Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford). Of the nineteen applicants, eleven were from a nursing background with two of these subsequently taking up posts. It is understood that the majority of these nursing applicants wanted to

work in non-clinical roles. The remaining eight applicants were Healthcare Assistants - two of these were placed in St. Patrick's Hospital in Cashel.

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**