



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

Head of Service, Primary Care
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

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10th June, 2020

Deputy Niamh Smyth TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 8312/20 Dental Clinic, Darley Health Centre.

Dear Deputy Smyth,

I refer to your representation, which has been forwarded to my office for response. I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the current position.

The Dental Clinic at Darley Health Centre had to cease operations in mid-January last following what appeared to have been contamination by a chemical related odour. The subsequent phase down of elective dental services due to Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the continued closure of this centre and closure of other outlying centres with emergency arrangements being provided from PCC Drumalee, Cavan Town and Dental Department, Monaghan Hospital.

Dental services were recently notified by the National Oral Health Office (NOHO) of clearance to resume elective dental treatment. This will be done in phased basis and planning is underway using guidance issued by NOHO. However, it is clear that the resumption of elective care will be a much longer process than the shutdown of dental services caused by the pandemic. Dental practise has significantly changed with advent of the pandemic. These involve changes to clinical practice and also significant changes to how that care is organised and delivered safely under back to work protocols, all in coordination with other disciplines in healthcare facilities.

The resumption of elective care and re-commissioning of dental care facilities will be predicated on the outcome of an audit and risk assessment of our all existing facilities. This process will be significant in determining how dental clinics can be brought back on stream, while also optimising patient care and minimising the risks to patients and healthcare staff.

It would be our hope, given that Cootehill dental clinic is a centre for special care dentistry will be safely re-opened on a graduated basis. Unfortunately, at this juncture we unable to be time specific as to when elective care can resume there.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dermot Monaghan,
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
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