

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Office of Head of Primary Care
HSE Community Services Building
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Tralee
Co. Kerry
V92 YA25

22nd June, 2020.

Sean Sherlock, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

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PQ ref 9961/20

"To ask the Minister for Health when SouthDoc Blackpool in Cork will reopen

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

The Board of Directors of SouthDoc took a decision on March 11, 2020 to implement a range of contingency plans in order to deal with the serious challenges being posed by the progression of COVID-19. The measures, which became operational on March 14, 2020, were put in place in order to protect the GPs and staff during the out of hours setting. In the intervening period the Board of Directors and Medical Directors have reviewed the contingency service plans regularly.

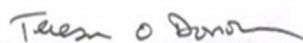
Overall, the number of patient contacts to SouthDoc has decreased significantly. The majority of consultations are now by way of doctor telephone consultation, a smaller number are in the treatment centre, and even fewer are home visits. The model of medical practice has changed against the backdrop of the pandemic.

The Board of Directors of SouthDoc have recently reviewed the service and a reopening of non-operational treatment centres on a phase basis has commenced. The re-opening of the centres requires considerable planning to ensure compliance with Government guidelines on safe restoration of services. The centres in Kanturk and Fermoy have re-opened on June 8th and June 10th respectively and centres in Clonakilty, Macroom and Skibbereen are scheduled to reopen early July. The remaining centres which were closed, including Blackpool, are being kept under review.

This situation will be monitored in the context of the levels of transmission of Covid-19 in the community.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare