



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

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

☎: +353 (0)47-30449  
Email: [dermot.monaghan@hse.ie](mailto:dermot.monaghan@hse.ie)

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

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

**Re: PQ ref 3009 To ask the Minister for Health the reason the dental centre at Darley healthcare centre, Cootehill, County Cavan has been closed for the past six weeks; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Smyth,

I refer to your parliamentary question in relation to Darley healthcare centre, which has been forwarded to my office for response. I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the position.

The Dental Clinic at Darley Health Centre has had to remain inoperative since mid-January last following what appears to have been release of a chemical vapour which resulted in a pungent odour which originally had permeated the GP waiting area over the course of a weekend and since which has been confined to the dental surgery.

Maintenance staff undertook several investigative procedures to determine the source of the issue including the checking of drains, utilities serving the surgery, possible chemical spillage etc. Capital dental equipment such as suction unit, compressor etc was also checked. According to maintenance the source was seepage from a refrigerant agent in a mini-fridge located in the dental surgery. A series of measures have been undertaken such as deep cleaning, odour absorption techniques and ventilation to eliminate the odour. However while the level of the odour has reduced it has not abated sufficiently on health, safety and welfare grounds to expect staff to resume clinical duties let alone patients be treated on site.

The service is currently sourcing assistance from a specialist service. The elimination of the residual odour is proving quite challenging and we are making every effort to avoid a worst case scenario of a total refit of the surgery.

In the interim arrangements have been made to treat patients at the Dental Service in Drumalee, Cavan.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

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