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15th May 2020

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 4652/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the progress made to date in implementing the special island health policy published in the past year; the health services that have or are proposed to be withdrawn from the islands since the publication of this policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Éamon Ó Cuív

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

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

The Primary Care Island Services Review was published in April 2017. Within this document, a range of recommendations were made to advance primary care on Islands. A project manager was recruited to the project in 2019 and progress around the development of initiatives has been continuing. Some of the key advances are listed below:

- The HSE has progressed implementation of the recommendations through the establishment of an Island Services project, underpinned by an interdisciplinary and interagency approach. Representatives from the Islands are central to this.
- A project manager was recruited to this project and made considerable progress. The post is currently vacant and a replacement project manager is being progressed
- The Islands Services Project has established project boards at National level and at CHO 1, (Donegal islands), CHO 2 (Mayo & Galway Islands) and CHO 4 (Cork Islands) area level.
- The Islands Services Project Groups, in collaboration with the Island representatives and other internal and external stakeholders, are tasked with the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Islands Services Project Implementation Plan at CHO area level.

In relation to withdrawal of health services from the Islands, there have been no services withdrawn from the Islands since the publication of this report and there has been no discussion in relation to withdrawing health services from Islands.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Walsh', written in a cursive style.

David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations