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10th June 2020

Deputy Catherine Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 7520/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the date on which his attention and the attention of the HSE was drawn to the movement of the 70 international protection applicants that were previously residing at a hotel (details supplied) to two other dedicated centres on 18 and 19 March 2020; the steps taken by him and the HSE on foot of their attention being drawn to same; and if he will provide a detailed report on the issue as a matter of urgency.

-Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

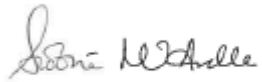
The Health Services Executive, once formally advised by the Department of Justice and Equality of the establishment of a Direct Provision Centre, proceed to put in place the necessary healthcare supports for example, access to General Practitioners, Pharmacies, Public Health Nursing and support with medical card applications.

In addition, on March 19th 2020, the day after the centre opened, a HSE Community Worker and Killarney Immigrant Support Centre worker visited the centre to meet the site manager and staff, and a representative from Department of Justice and Equality. During this visit COVID-19 related information and materials were provided and advice regarding the essential requirement for adherence to social distancing and public health guidelines.

During the period of this Public Health Emergency, there are increased, ongoing supports and guidance provided from a Public Health perspective to all Direct Provision Centres.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations