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November 24<sup>th</sup> 2020

Thomas Gould, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 35828/20**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the status of SouthDoc reopening in Blackpool, Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare's (CKCH) contractual relationship with SouthDoc is for the provision of out of hours GP services for medical card holders in the region (i.e. Cork and Kerry). We are in touch with SouthDoc on an on-going basis and the type and location of its services is part of those discussions.

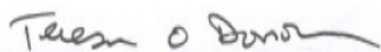
Earlier this year, SouthDoc informed CKCH that it planned to temporarily close some locations, as part of measures to minimise the risk of spread of Covid-19. All centres in Cork city and county, except Blackpool, have now reopened. CKCH have written to and held a meeting with SouthDoc requesting them to prioritise the reopening of the Blackpool Treatment Centre that was temporarily closed to respond to Wave 1 of the Covid pandemic.

Following recent HSE engagement with SouthDoc, it was confirmed that the Blackpool Treatment Centre closure is temporary in nature. CKCH has requested a plan from SouthDoc for the re-instatement of services and the timelines for same.

SouthDoc have assured us that every possible effort has been made and will continue to be made to avoid or minimise any impact on patients due to these temporary closures.

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**