



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Bainisteoir Ginearálta,
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Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

17th November 2020

PQ ref 36541/20

To ask the Minister for Health when respite services for older persons will be resumed in Ballybofey, County Donegal; if alternative supports are available during the suspension of respite services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty

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.

I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the position.

Donegal Older Persons Service is currently awaiting national guidance on the re-commencement of full respite services. Emergency respite continues in the Woodville Unit in Stranorlar, under the appropriate Infection & Prevention Control guidance.

There are no short-stay beds in the general nursing ward at St Joseph's Hospital at present as residents from the Rock Community Hospital remain there. Every effort is being made by the service to maximise the respite capacity available and to explore alternative options. Home respite and home day care supports have been made available, as well as emergency respite following a comprehensive risk assessment prior to admission and emergency admissions to dementia-specific respite beds and post-diagnostic dementia support services for those clients in need of this type of care

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Collum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Martin Collum
General Manager
Services for Older Persons
CHO 1.