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30 November 2020

**Deputy Seán Crowe, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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

PQ 37766/20

To ask the Minister for Health if the protocols for transferring patients from acute beds to nursing homes have been revised since March 2020; if all patients are Covid-19 tested before being transferred to a nursing home; the number of such tests that have been performed; and if single room accommodation is provided for all such patients for at least 14 days after transfer.

The latest guidelines from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) were issued on the 28 July 2020. Please find attached a copy of same.

The guidelines outline that patients being transferred from an acute hospital to a residential care facility to be swabbed up to 72 hours before transfer.

The numbers of such tests are not collected centrally and such data is not available.

The guidelines also recommend that the patient needs to be isolated for 14 days post transfer, regardless of the test result.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.