



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,  
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An  
Mhí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An  
Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

☎: 057 9359787/774

✉: [CHO8@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8@hse.ie)

Office of Mr. Pat Bennett,  
Chief Officer, Midlands  
Louth Meath Community  
Health Organisation, Health  
Service Executive, Area  
Office, Arden Road,  
Tullamore, Co. Offaly

☎: 057 9359787/774

✉: [CHO8@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8@hse.ie)

28<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Mr. Joe Flaherty T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 30037/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the date on which staff will return from testing duties to their work at a centre (details supplied). -Joe Flaherty**

**(Details supplied) -the Phoenix Centre in Longford. Early Intervention services are effectively at a Stand still in Co Longford and our most vulnerable children are paying a price.**

Dear Deputy Flaherty,

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 examined the matter and outline response as follows.

MLM CHO staff members have been redeployed as per NPHEG guidelines to the swabbing centres as this is the current national priority. The country is in level 5 at present and all available staffing resources are currently re-deployed to support swabbing and contact tracing .Unfortunately until we emerge from Level 5 it is not possible to consider stepping back up normal services.

However our urgent Priority 1 clients are being offered appointments via telehealth and where telehealth does not work a COVID risk assessment is being undertaken to arrange a face to face appointment safely for the client and staff.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

---

Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer CHO Area 8