



Cúram Sláinte  
Phobail, Iarthar  
ag freastal ar Ghailimh  
Maighéo agus Ros Comáin

Community  
Healthcare West  
serving Galway, Mayo  
and Roscommon

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Rose Conway Walsh T.D.,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

**PQ 32101/20**

**'To ask the Minister for Health if patients will be referred directly from general practitioners to Belmullet Hospital, County Mayo without having to be sent first to an acute hospital facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'**

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

I refer to PQ 32101/20 uploaded on the PAD System on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and due for response on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health concerning 'if patients will be referred directly from general practitioners to Belmullet Hospital, County Mayo without having to be sent first to an acute hospital facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter'. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Belmullet District Hospital is a step down facility supporting acute hospital discharges.

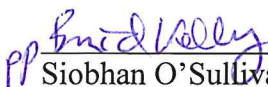
There are no direct admissions from the community to any Older People Services Long Term Care Facilities since the commencement of the COVID-19 emergency surge began on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Please note that recommendations from a recent HIQA inspection and an Infection Control review of the Belmullet facility has highlighted the need for a significant maintenance programme of work to be carried out to ensure a safer environment for both patients and staff.

It is also important to note that there is no general CHO arrangement for GP beds in CHO Older People Services residential facilities; however, where there are vacant staffed beds in a non-designated centre such as Belmullet District Hospital, which is a step down facility, GP admissions are accommodated.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely,

  
Siobhan O'Sullivan,  
General Manager,  
Older People Services,  
Community Healthcare West.