

23rd September, 2020

Mr. Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 21795/20

To ask the Minister for Health when residential respite will recommence for persons with disabilities in County Laois. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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.


The recommencement of all services will be considered in line with Public Health Guidance for Covid 19. The HSE's A Safe Return to Health Services (July 2020) outlines a three phased approach to the return of health and social care services. This plan states that short-stay residential and emergency/residential respite will begin to re-open from July to August with activity increasing in the next two phases September – November and December 2020 to February 2021. The main assumption underpinning this schedule is the level of illness and health service pressure caused by COVID-19.

Co. Laois was in lockdown which has impacted on the timelines for recommencement of respite however we are working with service providers to provide a response to families who are in critical need.

The Covid 19 status for the county is fluid and we need to follow the Governments five level plan over the coming six months.

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