



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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7<sup>th</sup> October 2020,  
Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Number 24722/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the status of the guidelines for the reopening of mental health day services and training centres; when the guidelines will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

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 the following outlines the position.

At the onset of the COVID -19 crisis, decisions were made to close a number of HSE day services in order to protect the health and safety of service users.

Over recent months the HSE has focused on service continuity and the necessary contingencies that will support service provision in a COVID 19 context which takes account of appropriate IPC / HPSC guidelines. In line with this, the Heads of Mental Health in each of the CHOs have examined their day service provision in terms of service user needs and the current resources available. They have also considered current IPC and HPSC guidance in the context of the current government COVID - 19 roadmap and the current incidence of COVID - 19 in their CHO.

This means that mental health day services are not discontinued at this time however there is local variation in terms of service delivery. There are no specific guidelines being developed relating to the reopening of mental health day services and training centres.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services