



6th May, 2021

Ms. Catherine Connolly T.D.
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 21988/21

PQ 21988/21– “To ask the Minister for Health if consideration has been given to applications submitted by healthcare workers for the temporary accommodation scheme to be administered by the HSE directly with the healthcare worker and not the local line manager in order to obviate recurring administrative and communication errors which are creating confusion; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

It is not anticipated that the temporary staff accommodation application booking process will be changed at this time. In order to comply with proper governance processes a healthcare worker must fill out the referral form and sign off is required by their local line manager. Each CHO, Hospital Group and National Ambulance Service (NAS) is represented by a staff accommodation lead who assigns accommodation to the healthcare worker, who keeps a log of assigned accommodation on a daily basis, communicates with HSE Estates in relation to available properties and tracks any issues or grievances from healthcare workers.

On a monthly basis there is a staff accommodation leads meeting at a national level which is used as a forum to give any updates or changes which might have occurred to the staff accommodation process and also allows staff accommodation leads to raise any issues or concerns that they might be having.

Since the beginning of the scheme the uptake in staff accommodation has increased and decreased significantly between the three Covid-19 waves. At its peak up to 3,534 healthcare workers availed of the scheme on the week ending 28th January 2021, whereas, the uptake significantly reduced to 270 the week ending 6th of August 2020 after the first wave. At present, 1,014 healthcare workers are availing of the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a horizontal line.

Frances McNamara
Assistant National Director,



Office of the Chief Operations Officer