

30th December, 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 62389/21 Cope Hostel, Bandon

Details Supplied: To ask the Minister for Health if a hostel for disabled persons (details supplied) in County Cork will be reopened to pre-Covid-19 service levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

Regrettably, the Covid-19 crisis continues to have a negative impact on the provision of disability services in West Cork, resulting in services temporarily ceasing operations in some instances, as is the case with the service in Bandon. Cope Foundation and HSE Disability Services continue to endeavour to support clients and families in West Cork presenting with the highest risk through alternative outreach / respite provision in the interim.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that there will be capacity to increase respite service levels in the immediate future due to the complexity of respite services and the nature of how those services are delivered in the context of Covid-19.

HSE Disability Services are acutely aware that the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent cancellation of services has resulted in significant stressors being placed on families and individuals with disabilities across Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. However, at present, due to the level of unpredictability of the scale of impact of the current wave of infection, we do not have a definitive timeline or schedule of when services will resume.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely



Patricia O'Neill,
A/Head of Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare