



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.

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16th March 2021

Deputy Johnny Mythen
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 10603/21

To ask the Minister for Health the consultation that was carried out with psychologists and other mental health professionals to develop a communications policy in relation to Covid-19 and the delivery of Covid-19 restriction extensions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Johnny Mythen

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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.

The HSE engaged in on-going consultation with a multi-disciplinary team that included the national clinical and group lead for mental health, an area director of nursing representative, the service user engagement lead and operations general manager during the COIVD crisis to ensure all mental health professionals' information needs were met at that time. There is currently on-going weekly engagement calls with the Head of Mental Health Services for every CHO, the Community Operations Mental Health management team and the National Clinical and Group Lead for Mental Health.

In addition, a National Psychosocial Response team was established and conducted an extensive process of consultation and information exchange with mental health professionals from across the health service spectrum. This included a national engagement in a local mapping exercise across a forty one professional bodies, community and voluntary agencies, in addition to specific services and care areas within the HSE. Though these consultative structures and processes, we obtained ongoing information and feedback on mental health needs, emerging challenges and new developments.

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

Yours sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Brien'.

Thomas O'Brien
General Manager Mental Health Services