



15th February, 2021

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Kildare Street,
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 5751/21

5751/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health if a centre (details supplied) is still in use as a field hospital or allergy testing centre; the details of the current usage of the centre; the medical procedures for which the facility is being used; the number of persons who have been treated at the facility in each of the past ten months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

The HSE’s Self-Isolation Facility at the Citywest Hotel opened to admissions on 1st April 2020 under the governance of HSE Community Operations. The service is provided for people affected by COVID-19 (confirmed or suspected cases, or close contacts of confirmed cases) who have the capacity for self-management, are required to self-isolate but are unable to do so. The purpose of the unit is to provide a safe environment for residents to self-isolate and to minimise the risk of community transmission of COVID-19. Referrals to this facility are made by a discharging hospital, GP, Public Health doctor, contact tracing team or other appropriate medical physician via a dedicated email using a standard referral form.

Additionally, a HSE Healthcare Worker Self-Isolation pathway at Citywest opened to admissions on 1st June 2020 under the governance of HSE Community Operations. This service is provided for Healthcare Workers who are contracted to commence employment with the HSE, HSE funded agencies or any agency providing healthcare services in Ireland. Referrals are made by Public Health doctors, Occupational Health, HR departments and GPs via a dedicated email using a standard referral form. All residents are admitted for a period of 14 days.

Since it became operational on 1st April 2020, there have been a total of 2,215 admissions to the Self-Isolation Facility and a total of 1,594 Healthcare Workers admitted up to 04th February 2021. The self-isolation facility has 756 bedrooms with capacity for 1,138 persons in current configuration.

In addition to the National Self-Isolation Facility managed by Community Operations, the Convention Centre at Citywest is being used for outpatients and day services. The Convention Centre was set-up but never used as a field hospital. Had national measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 not been successful, the Citywest Convention Centre would have been hugely important in providing the additional intermediate care facilities to support the Acute sector during the anticipated height of the pandemic.



The Convention Centre is not an acute facility nor is it appropriate for patients with high acuity needs, but it is currently providing infrastructure to support outpatient care in a number of key service areas. Examples of service types are outlined below:

- OPD Face to Face Consultations
- OPD Virtual Consultations
- Low complexity Day Case Activities
- Screening/Immunisation programmes
- COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics
- Rehab (face to face and virtually)

Yours sincerely,

Pp 

Anne O'Connor
Chief Operations Officer