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1st March 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 8970/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding designated quarantine centres for healthcare workers who test positive for Covid-19; the number of such centres; when they commenced operation; the location of each; the number of persons who have been quarantined in such centres to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

While there are no specifically designated quarantine centres for healthcare workers who test positive for Covid-19, the HSE runs a National Self-Isolation Facility at Citywest Hotel which opened to admissions on 1st April 2020 under the governance of HSE Community Operations. The service is provided for people affected by COVID-19, including Health Care Workers (positive 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. To date circa 2,321 people have been accommodated at this facility.

Anyone testing positive, healthcare workers or members of the public are referred to this designated facility should they not be in a position to self-isolate at home.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne O'Neill,
Interim National Director,
Community Operations