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10 March 2021

**Deputy Peadar Toibin,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Toibin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) have been asked to respond to you on behalf of the Minister for Health.

PQ 9213/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 patients who were discharged from hospital into a residential care facility throughout the pandemic

Very clear guidance has existed on the HPSC website since the beginning of the pandemic regarding hospital transfers to residential care and how they are managed. Since March 2020 the guidance has included Covid testing in the acute hospital as part of the transfer protocol. It's important to note that patients who were post Covid and had completed their treatment in acute hospital would also be included as 'Covid positive' even though they had completed their treatment and do not pose an infection risk. The guidance advises all new admissions to be isolated for 14 days after transfer.

For the period from March 2020 to February 2021 (inclusive), A total of 6,797 Transitional Care Bed funding applications were approved. While the HSE does track the number of transfers to residential care facilities from the acute hospital setting, this data does not have a Covid status attached. As such, the organisation is not in a position to state the number of Covid positive patients who have been discharged into residential care facilities, given this data is not available at this time but noting per above that all admission is requiring 14-days isolation are treated as suspected Covid positive.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.