



PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8

Príomhoifigeach CHO Ceantar 8
Oifig an Cheantair
Páirc Ghnó Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia
Sráid Hale
Baile Átha Fhirdhia
Contae Lú

t: 041 6871500

Chief Officer CHO8 Area
Area Office
Ardee Business Park
Hale Street
Ardee
Co Louth

t: 041 6871500

15th February 2021

Deputy Darren O'Rourke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ – 1057/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if addiction services have been transferred from Navan to Drogheda, County Louth; the reason for same; the number of staff and service users affected; the alternative site and service options that were considered and ruled-out; the reason for same; if it is planned to return services to Navan and if so, the date for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Darren O'Rourke

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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 outline the position as follows.

Addiction services for Meath were located in Railway Street, Navan for many years until the outbreak of COVID19 in March 2020 when they left. The basis for the leaving was staff could not provide a methadone service to clients from Railway Street due to Covid 19 and need to meet social distancing guidelines.

Staff and services ultimately moved to the Bailis Center. This was a temporary relocation as the substantive users were not present there due to COVID19. When they returned, it was no longer tenable for Addiction Services to remain there.

Despite efforts, there were no available and agreeable location in Meath from which to provide a service – hence the move to Donore Road, Drogheda.

Donore Road, Drogheda has become the Social Inclusion Hub for Louth Meath through significant investment in recent years. The methadone services for Meath began operating in Donore Road on 15th December 2020. There are approximately 50 services users and 6 staff members impacted by this move.

It is the intention of the HSE that Meath Clients would be provided their Methadone Service in Meath. In this regard we will continue to look at various options but we are not in a position at this time to provide alternative locations or a timeline to return to County Meath, but rest assured all options are being considered and this is very much a fluid situation.

The HSE regrets any inconvenience caused to both staff and service users in providing this service in Drogheda.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah McBride". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sarah McBride
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation