



Denis Naughten TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

26th January 2021

PQ 1783/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the steps that will be taken to ensure the HSE has the capacity to process primary medical certificates from 1 January 2020; the outcome of the meeting on 9 December 2020 between the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability at his Department and the Department of Justice and the Secretary General; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten”

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 1783/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE has been advised by the Department of Health that assessments for those applying for Primary Medical Assessments could recommence from 1st January 2021 and this will proceed in the context of restoring services in a Covid Environment as set out below.

To address the current third wave of Covid infections there was a requirement to prioritise the level of services delivered during this period. Building upon the experience from earlier waves of the pandemic, Community Services have developed a prioritisation framework to support local decisions to be made on service prioritisation. This approach will ensure that services will be focused on identifying and supporting patients who have the greatest need and enabling staff to be deployed where necessary to support these patients. Where services are curtailed or reduced, this will be in line with clinical approval, a shared national position and with an appropriate risk assessment and communication with providers, service users and families. It is the intention of Community Services that full services would return as soon as is safe and practicable.

The HSE was not in attendance at the meeting you referenced on 9th December 2020 and is not in a position to advise you of the outcome of the meeting.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.
Community Operations.