



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta  
Tel: 061 483245  
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Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations  
Services for Older People  
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10 February 2021

Deputy Gino Kenny, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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

**PQ 3792/21: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the private nursing home sector with particular reference to staffing levels, financial viability and supports being offered to the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

It is important to distinguish the role of the HSE from that of the Regulator. The significant legislative base of responsibility in relation to the private nursing home sector lies in the one hand with HIQA in relation to regulation, registration of services and investigations related to same, and to the National Treatment Purchase Fund for the purposes of agreeing contractual commitments for long term care services as outlined for the purposes of funding through the NHSS. The HSE does not have a legislative based authority specific to a direct role for private nursing homes.

Notwithstanding this, the HSE, in its planning and implementation of the Covid-19 response, stood up a host of supports and the HSE continues to provide a range of supports to all Nursing Homes, HSE public Community Nursing Units (CNU) and private nursing homes, primarily through Specialist Public Health, Geriatrician and IPC advice and support, provision of PPE, alternative accommodation, staffing supports if necessary and additional funding to the private nursing home sector under the TAP Scheme which, as of 10 February 2021, has paid out €69.2 million. These supports are primarily managed through our network of Covid Response Teams (CRTs) across our nine Community Health Organisations, in addition to Public Health Outbreak Control Teams in relevant circumstances.

The governance and management of each centre is the responsibility of each provider, in accordance with Regulations (HIQA /MHC). The CRT's role is to support these centres, as far as possible, while ensuring that the responsibility for the operation of the services and adherence to the regulation must rest with the Registered Provider in Private Nursing Homes and not the HSE.



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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

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**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Services for Older People – Operations**