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12 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, regarding the plan in the event of a closure of a private or public facility, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 3794/21: To ask the Minister for Health his plans in the event of the closure of either private or public nursing home facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and following subsequent advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET), Covid-19 Response Teams (CRTs) were stood up by the Area Crisis Management Teams (ACMTs) to provide additional supports to long term residential care facilities, including Nursing Homes. The CRTs continue to work with all Nursing Homes (public, private and voluntary) and will provide on-going support to try and ensure the continuation of safe service delivery for all residents.

In relation to the closure of a private facility, there is a process, led by HIQA through inspection, that determines compliance with regulations. The next steps include the Chief Inspector applying to the Courts under Section 58 of the Act where the court may issue an order to enforce a decision of the Chief inspector. At that point the HSE is ordered by the court to become the provider as a last resort to take over the management of the centre.

In instances where this order has been made, the HSE will comply with this order and act to secure the safety and wellbeing of the residents. While the HSE involvement in the operation will be on an interim and temporary basis, the HSE want to reassure the community that the welfare of residents will remain the primary concern and the HSE will work to provide stability and continuity for them, and act in their best interests at all times.

Yours sincerely

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

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