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Michael Healy-Rae, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 45041/20

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to introduce SouthDoc services in the Listowel area of County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details Supplied: Minister why is there a lack of Gp services administered by south doc in the Listowel area. Why do people have to travel to Tralee for visits to south doc.

Dear Deputy Healy Rae

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare’s (CKCH) contractual relationship with SouthDoc is for the provision of out of hours GP services for medical card holders in the region (i.e. Cork and Kerry). We are in touch with SouthDoc on an on-going basis and the type and location of its services is part of those discussions.

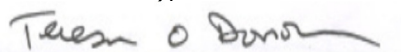
Earlier this year, SouthDoc informed CKCH that it planned to temporarily close some locations, as part of measures to minimise the risk of spread of Covid-19. All centres in Kerry except Listowel have reopened. We were advised by SouthDoc that following consideration of their position in relation to delivering services in the context of Covid activity that the Listowel centre would reopen by appointment from January 18th 2021. This followed significant engagement between Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and SouthDoc.

We were informed on the afternoon of January 15th 2021 that SouthDoc had changed its position and had decided not to resume this level of service at this time in the context of the sharp increase in Covid numbers. We are concerned at SouthDoc’s lack of consultation with the HSE on this decision. We are seeking further information as to what led to this decision and assurance from Southdoc that it will now be reviewed in the context of the extraordinary pressure that all health services are under at this time.

The HSE is committed to ensure that appropriate out-of-hours GP services are available to medical card holders in the Listowel area.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O’ Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare