

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Office of Head of Primary Care
HSE Community Services Building
Rathass
Tralee
Co. Kerry
V92 YA25

Tel: 066-7184516
Email: Teresa.ODonovan2@hse.ie

11th February 2021

Colm Burke, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 4722/21

“To ask the Minister for Health when the SouthDoc service in Blackpool, Cork is due to reopen; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

We were advised by SouthDoc that following consideration of their position in relation to delivering services in the context of Covid activity that the Blackpool 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 wrote to the Board of SouthDoc seeking further information as to what led to this decision and we sought assurance from SouthDoc that their position would be reviewed in the context of the extraordinary pressure that all health services are under at this time. We also sought to meet with the Board of SouthDoc to discuss these issues as a matter of urgency. We received a response from the Board of SouthDoc on February 2nd 2021 and the contents of that response are currently under consideration. I will revert with an update as soon as possible

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