



Colm Burke TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

7th April 2021

PQ 14851/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if additional community assessment hubs will be rolled out as part of the HSE Winter Plan 20/21; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 14851/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Winter Plan 2020 / 2021 provided funding for Community Assessment Hubs (CAHs). The HSE has no plans at present to roll out additional CAHs. There are currently four operational CAHs which are located in Donegal (Letterkenny), Dublin (Tallaght), Dublin (Mater Hospital) and Dublin (DCU Glasnevin). The current number and locations of CAHs is sufficient to meet demand which has significantly reduced in recent weeks. The number of referrals to CAHs in the week ending 4th April has reduced by approximately 90% compared to the number of weekly referrals to CAHs in early to mid-January 2021.

CAH capacity can be scaled up to meet future demand if required as follows;

- Increase capacity of CAHs operating on a part time basis to full time
- Monitoring of Covid data as objective markers to aid decision making regarding reopening CAHs
- Facility to open / re-open CAHs to become operational within 1 week

In January 2021 the number of CAHs was increased from 8 to 15 based on the criteria set out above. This near doubling of capacity also resulted in a greater geographical availability of services with at least one operational CAH in each CHO area.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Dunford', is enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.

Community Operations.