



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

7th April 2021

PQ 14854/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who were referred to hospital, sent to an isolation facility and that were sent home, respectively having been assessed in a community hub; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke”

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 14854/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Community Assessment Hubs (CAHs) provide timely community based acute clinical assessment for COVID-19 patients (presumptive and confirmed). The rationale for the establishment of CAHs was to free up general practice to give much needed non-covid care in a safer environment and to minimise any inappropriate use of Acute Hospital capacity (attendance and admission avoidance) and the risk of community transmission of COVID-19.

The information you have requested is not routinely available. However on a small number of occasions throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have asked the CAHs to estimate the percentage of patients who were referred to hospital, referred to an isolation facility or were sent home. The most recent data gathering exercise was in January 2021 which was a period of increased referrals to CAHs. While data was not available for all CAHs at that time the indicative figures showed that approximately 22% of patients were referred to hospital, 1% of patients were referred to an isolation facility and all other patients were sent home with the appropriate supports. Note that the percentages quoted here are specific to the January 2021 time period but previous occasional data gathering exercises showed results in line with the January 2021 data.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Dunford', written on a light-colored background.

TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.

Community Operations.