



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

30th March 2021

Deputy Cathal Crowe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

PQ 14995/21* *To ask the Minister for Health when sleep apnoea clinics will reopen for screenings and assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -*

Deputy Cathal Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Response

Since the onset of COVID-19 there has been significant reduction in all scheduled care activity across Acute Services including outpatient clinics, this is in line with the National Action Plan on COVID-19 (page 20).

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47b727-government-publishes-national-action-plan-on-covid-19/>

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented interruption to normal healthcare activity, with both community and acute settings affected. Not only have existing services been significantly impacted, but new services have had to be rapidly developed and deployed. Since the onset of the pandemic, patients and services have been clinically prioritised. Time critical care services, along with many routine services, have been protected meaning that people who needed them had, and currently have, access to these services.

The most recently published document on the safe return to health services, details can be found by accessing the link below:

https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/serviceplans/safe-return-to-health-services-plan.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2O_Jj7LXA5UXZC2c6FwaLK7I2GtISn73YxDhfCHDF8vy5D3F4RclAOGQLQ

This document provides a plan, and an overview of the services to be resumed, the target for their safe return, and some detail on the conditions and challenges that will have to be met. Every phase has been informed by clinical guidance and putting patient and staff safety first and will be subject to local variation.

The Deputy may be aware that significant funding has been identified through the 2021 estimates process to support access to care. The HSE is working with Hospital Groups and the NTPF to ensure that available additional funding in 2021 is targeted at access to care for patients where care delivery has been affected by the Pandemic.

If the Deputy would like an update on a particular service I am happy to investigate further if specific details could be provided.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Kidd
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations