



13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 17388/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if an assessment was carried out on the tragic situation that was evolving in Dealgan House in advance of the takeover by the RCSI; if so, the conclusions of the assessment; and if the assessment can be made public.**

**-Fergus O'Dowd**

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Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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

I wish to convey my sincere condolences to all of the bereaved families of Dealgan House Nursing Home who lost loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic and to acknowledge the traumatic experience for residents and families during this time.

In advance of the RCSI Hospital Group stepping in to support Dealgan House on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020, an assessment of the situation on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 took place, which involved communication by phone call, teleconference and email in relation to concerns relating to the safety of residents and staff, lack of staffing/nursing care and Infection Prevention Control measures. The following options were considered, in order to urgently address the situation;

- Put in place a full-time nurse manager to support the nursing home with key aspects of managing the outbreak.
- Put in place arrangements to take over the facility.
- Move a number of residents to an alternative HSE setting.

On the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 concerns relating to the care of residents were expressed by RCSI clinicians and the following supports were explored with a view to reconvening in the afternoon;

- A senior HSE manager to go into the nursing home to stabilise the situation.
- Occupational Health Support.
- Support accessing contract cleaning.
- Infection Prevention Control support.
- The need for additional staffing and roster requirements to be established.

On the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 the RCSI Hospital Group advised that due to on-going concerns in relation to Dealgan Nursing Home a decision was made that Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in conjunction with Louth County Hospital would make available resources to assist Dealgan House in managing the ongoing clinical and social care needs of residents alongside supports already being provided by CHO8. The HSE utilised their combined limited resources across all directorates (Community and Acute) to maintain resident safety at Dealgan House during the period of outbreak. The HSE provided these supports with the consent of Dealgan House management. In addition to the supports having been provided by CHO8 up to this point, the HSE through the RCSI group agreed to further provide more staffing resources (Nursing and HCA), contract cleaning staff and Infection prevention and control guidance during this period.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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Yvonne O'Neill,  
Interim National Director,  
Community Operations