



**6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021**

Ms. Bríd Smith T.D.  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 22740/21**

PQ 22740/21– “To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that accommodation is provided for front-line staff who worked in the health system during the Covid-19 crisis that is suitable and can ensure safe work practices including their own door and toilet and cooking facilities within a reasonable distance of their workplace in the event that the HSE ends the current staff temporary accommodation scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The temporary accommodation scheme for staff will continue to operate as long as we are in a COVID-19 environment and there is demand from healthcare workers who continue to meet the necessary eligibility criteria. It is communicated on a regular basis that the scheme will continue to operate as long as needed and that it is temporary in nature.

The temporary accommodation scheme for staff is regularly reviewed and as long as it is in operation it is not anticipated that an alternative accommodation scheme will be set up to accommodate frontline staff healthcare workers.

For general housing requirements please seek the assistance of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. For Direct Provision requirements please seek the assistance of the International Protection and Accommodation Service (IPAS).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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**Frances McNamara**  
**Assistant National Director,**  
**Office of the Chief Operations Officer**