



7th May, 2021

Ms. Róisín Shortall T.D.
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 23489/21

PQ 23489/21– “To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the health services staff temporary accommodation scheme (details supplied); 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 has been in operation since the 9th of April 2020 in line with the recommendation from NPHE. It is communicated regularly at a regional level that this scheme is temporary in nature and 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 including health care workers who are currently residing in direct provision.

A national HSE guidance document was developed which sets out a single process for Healthcare Workers in response to Covid-19, to ensure temporary accommodation is available at suitable locations within their immediate work area - <https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/coronavirus/policies-procedures-guidelines/temporary-accommodation-for-healthcare-workers.htm>

As outlined in the national guidance document the cohort of healthcare workers who are eligible to apply for the temporary accommodation service includes:

- Healthcare Workers whose family members are self-isolating and who are therefore not able to return home
- Healthcare Workers who are living with vulnerable persons
- Healthcare Workers who require emergency accommodation due to urgent response or mitigating factors
- Healthcare Workers who require accommodation in order to facilitate rosters
- Healthcare Workers, other than couples or co-habiting family members who normally live together, sharing accommodation who are at an increased risk of contracting and/or spreading Covid-19
- Healthcare Workers returning from overseas who are contracted to work and require temporary accommodation (following the required period of self-isolation)
- Healthcare workers who reside in congregated domestic living arrangements e.g. hostels, direct provision centres etc.



- Other needs as agreed at local level.

It must be stressed that the temporary accommodation scheme for staff is only available for healthcare workers who are actively working in healthcare settings at present. In line with good governance procedures and as outlined in the national guidance document temporary accommodation should be booked by a healthcare worker using the referral form and should be signed off by a local line manager to ensure the healthcare worker is meeting the eligibility criteria as outlined above.

Each CHO, Hospital Group and National Ambulance Service (NAS) is represented by a staff accommodation lead who assigns accommodation to the healthcare worker, who keeps a log of assigned accommodation on a daily basis, communicates with HSE Estates in relation to available properties and tracks any issues or grievances from healthcare workers.

Yours sincerely,

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

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