



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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8th November 2021

Deputy Bríd Smith
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 52013/21

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE raised any concerns with the relevant authorities in relation to services at a hospice (details supplied) the funding of posts and financial losses in the restaurants of same; if so, the response the hospice provided to explain these procedures in filling posts and losses at the facilities involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Bríd Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services catering service (Restaurant) has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Since March 2020 the Restaurant has been closed to members of the public, contractors, visitors and patient/resident family members. As a result there has been a massive decrease on the service demands, which has in turn negatively impacted on income. For over 18 months the Restaurant has only been accessible to staff members who did not have direct patient contact, with spacing of tables to allow for social distancing. All of these precautions were directly related to Infection Control measures. Currently there are sufficient staff in place to meet the demands of this level of operation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare