



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1
(An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach)
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25th November 2021

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re. PQ ref 54534/21

To ask the Minister for Health the reason Cashel Na Cor day service, Bunrana, Co. Donegal was still operating until recently on a reduced two-day service despite Covid-19 restrictions being lifted; the reason it is currently closed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn

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.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The reason day services at Cashel Na Cor were operating on a reduced capacity was due to a significant Covid-19 outbreak in a residential service in the Inishowen area. The outbreak had to be managed in line with Infection Control and Public Health Guidelines to ensure adequate care and safety for residents and staff. All efforts were made re recruit staff to cover the residential service from existing HSE panels and from recruitment agencies. However the available staff resources from panels and agencies were not adequate to provide staffing to the residential service. Disability Services also sought to redeploy staff from other areas but staffing levels are reduced across the system due to Covid-19 leave and insufficient staff could not be secured. As such day services staff had to be redeployed to the residential service which operates on a 24/7, 365 basis.

The Covid-19 outbreak is coming under control with residential services staff returning to work in line with the required public health guidance regarding attendance at work following Covid-19 infection. The service will be increasing on a phased basis in line with the management of the outbreak and staffing resource available with a view to reaching full service resumption as soon as possible.

As of Monday, 22nd November, 2021, the day services for Priority 1 day service users have resumed to pre-Covid-19 outbreak levels at Cashel na Cor and families have been notified of this. Full day service operation is a priority for Donegal Disability Services and it is only as a last resort that Day Service provision is reduced.

I trust that this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CHO1
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