



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig um Cheannasáí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
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HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
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2nd December, 2021

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re.: PQ 56687/21 “To ask the Minister for Health & Children the number of ShannonDoc services and locations that were operational across Co. Clare in each of the years 2017 – 2020 and, to date in 2021 in tabular form”.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question. I wish to advise you of the following:

In response to Covid-19, ShannonDoc implemented a number of contingency measures in order to ensure continuity of service and to protect patients and staff. A consolidated model of service was implemented in March 2020 to operate from five overnight treatment centres; Limerick City and Newcastlewest (Co. Limerick), Miltown Malbay and Ennis (in Co. Clare) and Nenagh (in North Tipperary).

The following outlines the treatment centres that were operational in Co. Clare from 2017 to date in 2021:

Clare	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ennis	√	√	√	√	√
Shannon	√	√	√	√	√
Killaloe	√	√	√		
Kilrush	√	√	√	√ (up to March 2020)	
Miltown Malbay	√	√	√	√	√
Ennistymon	√	√	√	√ (up to March 2020)	

Pre-Covid 19, ShannonDoc operated a service at weekends in Kilrush & Ennistymon during the hours when Miltown Malbay was not operational. Currently, services are provided from the treatment centre in Miltown Malbay during the times when the service would have been operated in Ennistymon and Kilrush (this has been the case since March 2020).

ShannonDoc previously provided a service in a HSE Elderly Residential facility in Kilrush County Clare. This is no longer a viable location due to changes required as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Alternative accommodation arrangements are being put in place and will be operational in Q1 2022.

It is not planned to resume the weekend service in Killaloe (2pm to 8pm) as there was very low demand and patients can be seen in treatment centres in Limerick and Nenagh both of which are within 30 minutes.

Proactive changes in the model of service have been made to ensure safeguards are in place to protect patients and staff. The level of service provision for patients will remain the same as was provided pre-Covid 19. However, the model of service delivery is slightly different i.e. that the Doctor may not always be present in all treatment centres but will be available to patients as required. This means that following triage, the Doctor will come and see patients in the relevant centre or carry out a home visit or arrange a virtual consultation as deemed clinically appropriate. In addition, where there are increased demands in certain areas, support can be provided from other treatment centres, providing an overall borderless service and ensuring services are provided where most needed.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Costello
Head of Service
Primary Care

p.p.