



13th December 2021

Deputy Réada Cronin,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 59041/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the planning that is in place within the health service to deal with long-Covid-19 in the population in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Réada Cronin

Dear Deputy Cronin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 59041/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Post COVID/Long COVID is a new disease so information on it, its features, incidence and its course are still emerging. Generally, signs and symptoms develop during or following an infection consistent with COVID-19 which continue for more than 4-12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis. The condition usually presents with clusters of symptoms, often overlapping, which may change over time and can affect any system in the body.

A new national model of care has been developed to further enhance service provision to those living with symptoms of Long COVID. This model of care builds on service provision currently provided with a view to strengthening our response to addressing the needs of these patients across a number of care settings to include Acute, General Practice, community reablement and enablement. This is a key priority for the HSE.

There has been a pragmatic, phased approach to the implementation of this Model with a focus on the establishment of Post Acute and Long COVID clinics as an initial priority. An implementation team and oversight group has been established to drive this implementation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations