



**Head of Service for Older Persons
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**
Health Service Executive
Model Business Park
Model Farm Road
Cork Eircode: T12 HT02

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Páirc Gnó Model
Bóthar na Modh Feirme
Corcaigh Eircode: T12 HT02
T: 353 (0)21 4923854

22nd October 2021

Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 49804/21:

"To ask the Minister for Health when the respite care centre at Clonakilty Community Hospital will be reopened; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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.

Covid 19 has impacted all aspects of our service provision, including respite services, since March 2020. Respite services were either ceased in some locations or were curtailed due to the need to reduce the numbers of admissions in compliance with Public Health guidelines. The HSE acknowledges the impact and effects of the reduction in respite provision for our service users during the current COVID-19 pandemic and is cognisant of the stress this can cause to patients and their families. Our priority is to enable our units to deliver safe respite service supports in line with current Public Health advice and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance.

The HSE and Nursing management in Clonakilty Community Hospital are committed to providing all available supports, including respite, to Older People in the local community. The HSE regrets that, due to the impact of Covid-19, capacity within Clonakilty Community Hospital and other facilities has been significantly restricted.

Nursing management in Clonakilty Community Hospital continues to assess referrals on an individual basis in relation to the provision of respite services. The availability of respite is dependent on bed availability within the limitations of current IPC measures and the prevailing conditions at any time with regard to positive Covid rates in the community and the hospital itself.

Resumption of full respite services across our area remains a service priority.

It is important to note that beds for Long Term Care residents are being facilitated in Clonakilty Community Hospital on an on-going basis and the provision of Transitional care beds in the hospital has assisted in relieving some pressures on the demands of the acute



hospitals. Palliative care admissions have been prioritised to support families in the Community who struggle with care demands at End of Life.

Completion of the 20 bed extension to Clonakilty Community Hospital will include additional capacity for respite beds – the projected date for opening of the extension is the end of March 2022.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

