



Oifig Cheannasaí na Caipiteal agus nEastát
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Ms Neasa Hourigan, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

29th October 2021

PQ 50170/21 * To ask the Minister for Health the guidelines that are provided to State and private providers in the design, construction and fit out of new nursing home facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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.

The regulation of State and Private residential care settings/nursing homes rests with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

HIQA publish guidelines which are updated on a regular basis.

The HSE does not provide guidelines for private providers. The HSE has briefing documents which are used for all residential care settings that are developed by the HSE.

COVID-19 has highlighted the important need to move to new models of care for older people and the Department of Health and HSE will jointly be working on a programme of reform of services for older people. This will involve short and long-term reform across Government in order to provide new housing models, new 'home-first' care models, and where long-term care is needed, ensure that it is provided with innovative designs that can meet infection prevention and control requirements and provide an appropriate home for those who need this type of care.

Although there is currently no technical guidance issued for the design, construction and fit out of new nursing home facilities, officials in the department of Health, in conjunction with the HSE, HIQA and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are currently examining a range of issues with regard to the design and physical infrastructure of nursing homes, the location of nursing homes, and the planning process as it relates to nursing homes. This work will be advanced in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Curran', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Curran
National Director,
Capital & Estates