

22nd September 2021

Mr. Thomas Gould, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 42593/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that Southdoc have reneged on their commitment to a full return to service in their Blackpool facility and will instead operate curtailed hours.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 understand that the service will be operational to 11pm Monday to Friday and to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

This is a welcome development and sees the restoration of the service to the North side of the City. You raise in your question the issue that the opening hours are not as those that are previous to pre Covid, this would be particular to the weekend hours only. The HSE will continue to monitor the accessibility of service with SouthDoc in relation to all centres, including Blackpool.

Since Covid and due to the pandemic, there has been a significant learning and indeed change of approach across health services in general and with a movement towards virtual and IT based solutions, which when appropriate, increases access for patients and citizens.

The HSE will explore with SouthDoc, any positive developments that can be considered into the future, given the on-going scarcity of GPs across the country.

The HSE will continue to monitor service progress with SouthDoc through the established Service Arrangement processes.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare