



24th September 2021

Deputy Marian Harkin,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 44285/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the plans that are being put in place to assist those patients who are affected by the many long-term effects of Covid-19; if he will ensure access to health services for all those suffering with long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” - Marian Harkin

Dear Deputy Harkin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 44285/21), 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 Board and Management of the HSE.

There will be a programmatic approach to the implementation of this model and a National Oversight Group has been established to oversee and drive the implementation of this plan.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations