

11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

Mr Sean Sherlock, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 19380/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the reason that a facility remains closed (details supplied); and the steps being taken to reopen it.”**

**Details supplied: Cooleens House, St Joseph's Foundation, Cork.**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 centre remains closed due to significant staffing vacancies and recruitment challenges. This respite service is currently operating alternative services such as outreach supports and Saturday Clubs to Priority One and Priority Two children. Three weekend breaks in Trabolgan Holiday Centre were also provided by St Joseph's as a form of Alternative Respite, this was available to all families.

Staffing issues and the recruitment of a Person In Charge under the Health Act, remain the significant barriers to reopening Cooleens. Until such time as these have been resolved, we are unable to provide timescales for reopening.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms Majella Daly**  
**Head of Disability Services,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**