



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

Head of Service, Primary Care
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23rd December 2022

Deputy Thomas Pringle
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 62880/22 - The Island population is being left without the service at times due to inadequate staffing cover to back up the 2 nurses which work on the Island. Will the Minister make sure that cover is available to assist the current nurses

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the situation with district nursing on Tory island (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Pringle

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position for Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo.

I can confirm that a recruitment campaign for a nurse specifically for Tory Island will commence on 9th January 2023. Currently, nursing staff work on Tory Island on a two-week-on two-week-off basis. There are two staff wholly assigned to this; however, due to unplanned leave, there have been some days when there has been no nurse available on the island. On these days, the caseload was risk assessed and control measures were put in place.

The Donegal Public Health Nursing Service has made every effort to provide cover to the island from within the network but not all staff are able to go to Tory Island. The Service also has access to an agency nurse, but she has limited availability as she also has a commitment to Letterkenny University Hospital. Travel to the island via ferry can also be problematic, with ferries cancelled at times due to poor weather conditions.

However, with the recruitment campaign for a nurse bespoke for Tory Island due to commence in early January, this should alleviate some of the above resource and access difficulties and lead to a more tailored nursing service for the island.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Doyle
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