



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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19th December, 2022

Deputy Naughten
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 62886/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of the €2.2 million allocated for the development of long-Covid services in 2022 that was spent exclusively on long-Covid services; the allocation drawn down by each clinic to date in 2022; the respective period of operation of each clinic; the number of new patients and recurring patients treated to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter

- Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 62886/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE recognises the need to provide follow up support and care for patients experiencing prolonged signs and symptoms of Covid-19. In response to this it has developed an Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long Covid which was finalised in September 2021. The aim of the MoC is to provide a national approach to the provision of services and supports for patients experiencing prolonged symptoms of Covid-19. It sets out a framework for the provision of these services and supports spanning General Practice, Community Services, Acute Hospitals and Mental Health Services. The resultant Interim MoC recommended the development of:

1. Eight Post-Acute Covid clinics
2. Six Long Covid clinics
3. A tertiary referral neurocognitive clinic for those with complex neuro cognitive/neuropsychological symptoms

Implementation of the MoC commenced in January 2022. At this point, some of the designated hospital sites were already providing Long Covid and Post-Acute services on an interim basis while awaiting recruitment of full staffing as per the Model of Care. They have been established in response to local need and are leveraging existing resources and capacity. The HSE has been working with sites to expand their resources to ensure they can meet the requirements of the Model of Care. To date, five of eight Post-Acute COVID clinics outlined within the Model of Care have been established, and four of six Long COVID clinics have been established.

The MoC identifies the resources and personnel required for each of these clinics including Infectious Disease Consultants, Respiratory Consultants, Neurologists and Psychiatrists and additional multi-disciplinary staff to support the clinics, including Clinical Psychologists. In this regard €2.2 million was provided in 2022 to fund these post. To date an estimated €1.45 million has been spent across the operational clinics on staffing for the clinics, with spend increasing month on month as staff continue to be on-boarded.

Advanced reporting metrics on operational clinic activity levels are being collated individually by staff at each site. A uniform and national approach will be implemented in 2023.



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations