

20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref: 1416/22**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the details of the efforts already undertaken by the HSE towards the recruitment of a medical officer to St. Francis Welfare Home, Fermoy, County Cork to facilitate the reopening of respite services; and if he will make a statement on the matter".**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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.

St Francis's Home had provided transitional care during the Covid 19 pandemic for clients in the acute sector who were transitioning to a home setting. It was closed on a temporary basis from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2021 due to the unavailability of Medical Officer cover. Following a recruitment campaign, a Medical Officer has now been identified for the unit with engagement underway in relation to opening the unit this month.

It is important to note that, due to the current impact of Covid-related leave across the health sector including Fermoy Community Hospital, safe staffing levels for both St. Francis Welfare home and the hospital are currently compromised. We are working to confirm adequate available staff to open the Welfare Home in the coming weeks.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



-----  
Jackie Daly  
Head of Service for Older Persons