

26th July 2022

Ms. Holly Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 38124/22

“To ask the Minister for Health his views on the degree to which Parliamentary Questions on matters relating to the Cork Mental Health Services are not being answered and have to be resubmitted repeatedly; and the recourse that Deputies have in cases in which Parliamentary Questions are repeatedly not answered.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,


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.

All Heads of Services within Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, including Mental Health Services, are acutely conscious of the need to respond to Parliamentary Questions in a factual, accurate and timely manner. Over the past several years CKCH has consistently received more PQs than any other CHO in the county e.g. in 2022 alone we have received approx. 30% of all PQs submitted to the nine CHOs. Throughout this time we have endeavoured to respond to the questions received to the best of our ability and with the information available to us at the time.

Furthermore, as Chief Officer I have facilitated numerous briefing sessions for Oireachtas members in Cork over the past two years. I would hope, and the feedback has been, that these sessions have proven to be a very useful means of sharing information and a forum for Oireachtas members to raise matters of concern to them. In addition, my door has always been open to public representatives to discuss any service matters or issues of concern to them. I cannot recall the issue of the quality of PQ responses having been raised at any time since I took up the role of Chief Officer.

In light of the above, I am disappointed to read from your question that you feel that some of the responses which you have received to Parliamentary Questions have not met the required standard. However, I wish to acknowledge your concerns and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns in person with you. If your office could ring my office on 021-4928540 we can make arrangements to meet at a mutually suitable time.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Fitzgerald
Chief Officer
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare