



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
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20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Deputy Róisín Shortall,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 38461/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the rationale for the inclusion of dietician posts in the interim model of care for long-Covid; the research that this was based on; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Róisín Shortall**

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Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 38461/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Covid-19 is a new disease so information on it, its features, incidence and its course are still emerging. The natural history, clinical course and consequences of Covid-19 are still emerging. It is recognised that most people with Covid-19 return to baseline after acute infection, however a proportion will experience persistent and prolonged symptoms. There are many terms used to describe this post-acute sequelae, the most commonly used terms are Post Covid-19 Condition or Long Covid.

Common symptoms associated with Long COVID include fatigue, shortness of breath and cognitive dysfunction. Symptoms may be of new onset, following initial recovery from an acute Covid-19 episode, or may be persist from the initial illness. The condition usually presents with clusters of symptoms, often overlapping, which may change over time and can affect any system in the body.

Symptoms can have a significant impact on patients physical and cognitive functioning, limiting their ability to undertake everyday activities, including the ability to achieve an adequate nutritional intake. The Model of Care therefore recognises the need to provide a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to care with access to dieticians for assessment and intervention as indicated.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**



General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations