

22nd June, 2022.

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

PQ ref 31181/22

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide information on the sudden closure of Castlemartyr health centre; if the services provided there will be recommencing at that location; the expected timeframe for same; if there are any other planned closures of similar facilities, temporary or otherwise, in east Cork; 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.

There has been very limited public access to Castlemartyr Health Centre since 2019 (i.e. in almost three years). No patient care services have been provided in Castlemartyr Health Centre since 2019. The building is old and we had significant concerns about the lack of space there, as well as health and safety concerns. The building has no wheelchair access; no wheelchair accessible toilets and very small rooms which are not suitable for modern healthcare purposes.

In the interest of safety and quality services clinic based adult and Children services are instead delivered in refurbished PHN rooms in Midleton Health Centre on the grounds of Midleton Community Hospital five miles west of Castlemartyr and in Cloyne Health Centre 5 miles south from Castlemartyr.

Administrative support related to Public Health Nursing recently moved to Midleton Health Centre (less than six miles away).

There has been no change to visits to people's homes by either Public Health Nurses or HSCAs (home helps).

As a general point, we'd like to stress that HCSAs are based in the community, and can continue their service no matter where their administrative support is based.

Child health clinics will continue in Midleton and Cloyne, as they have done since 2019. Work is underway at a building in Ballymacoda (less than six miles away), and once this work is complete, child health clinics will also run from there.

The main impact from the transfer of Public Health Nursing to Midleton Health Centre is that clients who previously collected supplies from Castlemartyr Health Centre will now be asked to collect these supplies from either Midleton or Youghal. If clients cannot attend Midleton or Youghal health centre to collect supplies, home delivery will be arranged.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare