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1st November 2022

Deputy Patrick Costello, Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

PQ 51482/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of long-Covid care for young persons and children.

- Patrick Costello

Dear Deputy Costello,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 51482/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE wishes to advise that while there is a paucity of International evidence to date, current studies indicate that younger people and children recovery quickly from Covid and the incidence of long Covid is low in these patient populations. Best available evidence supports the provision of care to children by their GPs and if necessary, by general paediatricians, who work in multi-disciplinary teams and have specialist teams to refer to e.g. Paediatric respiratory, neurology etc. This is current model of care for young persons and children.

The HSE also wishes to advise that the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and the National Clinical Advisors and Group Leads (NCAGL) for children and young people will continue to work closely with the HSE Long-Covid team to review evidence and support access to care. In addition to this, the HSE has commissioned HIQA to review and further inform the development of both adult and paediatric Long COVID services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care National Community Operations