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26th October 2022

**Deputy Denis Naughten,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 51847/22 – To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 259 of 11 May 2022, if he will outline the steps that have been taken to date by the HSE to capture the scale of the incidence of long Covid; if he will outline the demand and activity levels at each post covid and long covid clinic; the corresponding waiting list at each clinic; the number of patients attending each clinic monthly; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 51847/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE wishes to advise that it is taking a number of different steps to capture the scale of the Long COVID as outlined below.

The HSE has funded an epidemiological survey for 2022 and 2023. The aim of this study is to estimate the number of people in Ireland with symptoms syndromes which may indicate Long COVID and to characterise their health needs. This information will be used to help inform Long COVID clinics, of the extent and nature of healthcare need among the general population associated with Long COVID. The survey is in currently in phase one, which will involve testing the survey instrument, the recruitment procedures and communication procedures and the burden of the illness.

The HSE also wishes to advise that it has partnered with the APADT Research Centre, in Trinity College Dublin to undertake a feasibility study to assess the potential of establishing a Long COVID electronic patient register. Joint funding has been provided to undertake a feasibility study in this area. If successful, the patient register would provide a secure database to capture, store and analysed more detailed information in relation to the numbers of patient presenting to Long COVID clinics, the types of symptoms they are presenting with and their treatment outcomes.

Finally, to assist in estimating demand and resource requirements over time, and to provide oversight of current capacity and demand, the HSE is monitoring and tracking current activity levels of sites that are operating Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics. Appendix 1 below provides a breakdown of the numbers of



new patient seen and the end of month waiting list at dedicated Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics, based on available data for August 2022.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

Appendix 1

Metrics for August 2022

Table 1(a) Post-Acute Clinics

Clinic Location	Number of new patients seen	Number of patients on Waiting list at month end
Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown	135	13
Mater University Hospital	4	3

Table 1 (b) Long COVID clinics

Clinic Location	Number of new patients seen	Number of patients on Waiting list at month end
St Vincent's University Hospital	20	214
Cork University Hospital	15	75

Table 1 (c) Combined Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics



Clinic Location	Number of new patients seen	Number of patients on Waiting list at month end
Tallaght University Hospital	43	286
St James's University Hospital	22	N/A
Galway University Hospital	16	70