



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

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7th November 2022

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 52906/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the downgrading of health services on Arranmore island, for example the current community-registered nurse is not on the island full-time and there is no public health nurse, leading to people waiting longer for treatment and having to go to the mainland more often; his views on whether this is appropriate at a time when the population of the island is increasing; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There is a full-time Community Registered Nurse allocated to Arranmore Island which has a population of 450 people. This nurse is suitably qualified and competent to meet the demand for the nursing needs of the population. The nurse works alongside the Palliative Care Team and the enhanced Community Care Team as required to bring the best possible care to the population of Arranmore Island. Should a weekend planned nursing call be required on Arranmore, this nursing call is allocated to the Community Registered Nurse's weekend rota for the Rosses area she covers. There are no delays in people being seen from a nursing perspective on Arranmore Island.

There is also a Public Health Nurse (PHN) based in the Burtonport area who holds responsibility for the child development and screening for children under five years of age on Arranmore Island. She travels to the island when required to do so. Currently there are eight children under five years of age (two of them are there temporarily from Ukraine) and all child developmental checks are up to date. The school age children are also seen by the Clinic PHN in the schools for age-appropriate vision and hearing screening.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Doyle
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