



23/11/2022

Deputy Paul Murphy,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 53950/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm the number of those homes received HSE support in relation to the list of 128 nursing homes of concern that HIQA provided the HSE provided as stated by the 2020 expert panel and if any of those homes refused HSE support.

The HSE stood up Covid-19 Response Teams in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The HSE provided guidance and support to approximately 604 publically and privately managed residential units for the older person inclusive of enhanced supports to any facility identified as being of concern, noting that facilities of concern changed on a daily basis.

CRTs worked collaboratively with Nursing Homes to identify the needs of their units thus any response/interventions were tailored to address their particular requirements at that time; the goal being to avert Nursing Home facilities reaching a crisis point.

Supports available included guidance by the CRT's, provision of PPE, Staffing supports, Serial Testing, accommodation when required and on-site vaccinations.

CRT's also provided guidance on:

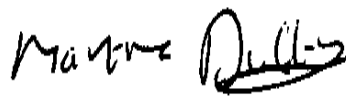
- Infection Prevention and Control,
- Outbreak Management,
- Visiting Guidelines
- Advocacy services.

In urgent cases HSE staff were re-deployed to Residential Care Facilities to support the provision of safe care when staffing levels were depleted due to Covid-19 infection.

Nursing homes were receptive to the supports offered by the CRT's. On a limited number of occasions there were nursing home facilities who did not avail of the guidance and support offered by the CRT's. This however must be understood in the context of the legal relationship of CRT's with Private Nursing home facilities in that any engagement with private providers is through cooperation and consent thus engagement is voluntary.

Regular contact and support continues between CRT's and Residential Care Facilities throughout all CHO areas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Dill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

**General Manager
Services for Older People
Community Operations**