



Ceann Daoine Aosta
Eagraíocht Sláinte Pobail FSS Tuaisceart
Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae Bhaile
Átha Cliath
Campas Gnó Shoird, Bóthar Bhaile Anraí,
Sord, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath. K67 X3Y9

Head of Older Persons Services
Community Health Organisation
Dublin North City and County

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10th November 2022

Mr. Paul Murphy TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Email: paul.murphy@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ53951/22 "To ask the Minister for Health the supports the HSE provide to a nursing home in Dublin 7 from 2020 to 2022; the reason this support was provided; when did the home request support; on what grounds and the date the HSE provided this support." (Details Supplied: Nephin Nursing Home) – **Paul Murphy TD**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

I wish to advise in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Health Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) began providing COVID-19 specific support to all private Nursing Homes in our catchment from March 2020. CHO DNCC first contacted Nephin Nursing Home on 26 March 2020. Contact continued throughout 2020 and 2021.

The supports mentioned continue to be available to date as required and are delivered online, by telephone, and on-site by a specialist COVID-19 Crisis Response Team (CRT). The CRT is led by two senior nursing personnel with access to a range of other expertise including Consultant Geriatrician advice and guidance from Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) specialists and input from the HSE's Public Health Team.

Supports include:

- COVID-19 weekly web chats providing up-to-date information regarding clinical guidance issues relating to COVID-19. The HSE's Public Health Department also participated in this on-line forum to give general advice.
- On-site visits by the CRT to discuss COVID-19 related issues including IPC and the prevention and management of COVID-19 outbreaks.
- Supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) on a weekly basis.
- The CRT communicated with all private Nursing Homes (including Nephin Lodge) on a daily basis in relation to the COVID-19 status of all residents and this information was used to inform on-site visits as appropriate. However a record of the dates and specifics of these visits was not maintained.
- Provision of an on-site vaccination team at each cycle of the COVID 19 vaccine rollout.



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I can further advise the HSE continues to maintain and update advice to all residential care facilities via the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) website. Additionally, The HSE has made its online education portal (HSELand) available to all staff in the private Nursing Home sector, which was previously unavailable to non-HSE staff prior to the pandemic.

Additionally, the HSE provided Temporary Assistance Payments (TAPS) to all private Nursing Homes (including Nephin Lodge) to assist in funding additional costs associated with COVID-19 and the prevention and management of COVID-19 outbreaks.

The CRT remains available to all private Nursing Home in our area. For your information the CRT is in the process of transitioning to a Community Support Team (CST) which will give a broader level of support across a range of clinical issues and not limited to COVID-19.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Essene Cassidy
Head of Older Persons Services