



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Date: 19th September 2022

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

PQ 44284/22 * To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients that have been seen in each post-acute and long-Covid clinic since implementation of the interim model of care for long-Covid began, by clinic and by month, in tabular form. and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

The HSE recognises the need to provide follow up support and care for patients experiencing prolonged signs and symptoms of Covid-19. In response to this it has developed an Interim Model Of Care (MoC) for Long Covid which was finalised in September 2021. The aim of the MoC is to provide a national approach to the provision of services and supports for patients experiencing prolonged symptoms of Covid-19. It sets out a framework for the provision of these services and supports spanning General Practice, Community Services, Acute Hospitals and Mental Health Services. The resultant Interim MoC recommended the development of six Long COVID clinics, eight Post-Acute COVID clinics and one tertiary referral neurocognitive clinic for those with complex neurocognitive/neuropsychological symptoms.

Implementation of the MoC commenced in early 2022. While a number of hospitals have commenced dedicated long-covid clinics, the recruitment and appointment of staff is ongoing and they are not yet operating at full capacity. As a result patients are still being seen in non covid clinics.

As part of the implementation process, the HSE recognises that collection and monitoring of metrics is required to provide oversight of capacity within clinics and current demand for services. This information is key to informing any required expansion of clinics and/or the development of additional clinics at other hospital sites.

The HSE will have sight of activity and dates of commencement when this data is returned from the clinic sites. The data collection process for this year is still in progress. Once collected and validated the data will be provided in a supplementary response.

I trust that this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Dunne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Dunne
General Manager
Acute Operations