



Oifig um Cheannasaí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483722

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Ballycummin Ave, Raheen Business Park, Raheen,
Limerick
Tel: 061 483722

27th September 2022

Deputy Patrick O'Donovan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: PO 44702/22 – “To ask the Minister for Health the provision that has been made by the HSE for incoming Ukrainian refugees into Limerick to be given access to general practitioner services”.

Dear Deputy O'Donovan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Primary Care Unit Manager has advised that from the onset of the Ukrainian response, all General Practitioners (GPs) in the Mid West (CHO3) were communicated with on the framework issued by the Primary Care Reimbursement Services (PCRS) regarding the supports/arrangements being put in place for the Displaced People from Ukraine. The PCU Manager advised that the PCU in consultation with the Relationship Manager from the Ukrainian Support Team completed a mapping exercise to assign the displaced people to GPs based on the geographical need and GPs were contacted to request their agreement in assigning this additional patients to their General Medical Services (GMS (medical card) list/panel.

Initially, support from GPs was excellent, however, due to the increased numbers of displaced people arriving and the other demands on GP practices, it is now becoming more difficult to access GP services and to assign patients to a GP. This is not unique to the Ukrainian situation. While GP capacity is a serious issue across the Mid West (CHO3), the Primary Care Unit continue to consult with GP practices on individual urgent cases and assist in securing emergency GP appointments for the Displaced People of Ukraine. Please note that the displaced persons of Ukraine can also access Out of Hours GP Services (ShannonDoc).

The PCU Manager has also advised that since the outset the increased demand for GP services in Limerick was met via a mobile GP Response Clinic. This pop-up service includes a GP, a nurse, an interpreter and administrative support. Currently in Limerick City, there is a Ukraine GP Response Clinic which operates two days per week with one GP on site with plans underway to facilitate a second GP on site.

Separately, health screenings have been conducted in a range of settings with supports for those with more complex needs. Whilst, Covid 19 posed difficulties initially, vaccinations are now being offered in accommodation sites throughout the Mid West region. A full range of psychosocial supports have also been put in place for displaced persons who have endured difficult experiences since their displacement from Ukraine.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary O'Malley', written over a horizontal line.

Mary O'Malley
General Manager
Primary Care