



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

Chief Officer Offices, First Floor
St Brigids Complex, Kells Road,
Ardee, Co. Louth, A92 DRN0

www.hse.ie
@hselive
@MLMCommHealth

t 041 6859278
e CHO8@hse.ie

12th October 2022

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 45340/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of nights that there has been no doctor available in Navan North East Doctor On-Call in the past 24 months – Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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 outlined the position as follows.

In line with monitoring arrangements under Service Level Arrangement and commensurate with funding allocation to NEDOC Ltd., two monitoring review meetings are scheduled each year with NEDOC Ltd. These meetings are usually held in March and October. Unfortunately, during Covid-19, it was not possible to hold monitoring review meetings as all resources were channeled toward crisis managing a front line service during the two and a half years of the pandemic. The NEDOC Service was significantly impacted by the effects of the pandemic, both in terms of reduced staffing levels coupled with the demands placed on the service at times of high demand when transmission of the virus was high in the community.

However, the Operations Manager was in regular contact with NEDOC Ltd. regarding their rota management and to ensure that the GP Out-of-Hours Service continued to operate as a priority service throughout the pandemic. While in some instances, the overnight doctor cover reduced from 4 down to 3, the service continued to provide a full level of service (in accordance with public health guidelines) and patient's received telephone consultations from one of the three treatment centres.

Since September 2022, NEDOC has primarily returned to pre-Covid service operations with face to face consultations and home visits being undertaken.

The HSE met with NEDOC Ltd in June 2022 and have arranged to meet in early November where compliance to the SLA will be reviewed and the matter of overnight "red-eye" cover will be discussed in detail.



The HSE is strongly committed to ensuring that NEDOC Ltd covers all 4 red-eye sessions in line with funding arrangements and the remedies provided for within the SLA will be applied should further incidences occur.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

Des O'Flynn,
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation