



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Bríd Smith,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 47666/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the lack of specialist, multidisciplinary treatment and care for children with long-Covid; the reason that there are currently no long-Covid clinics for children in Ireland given that these are being treated by general paediatricians and general practitioners without the necessary level of expertise to manage this debilitating illness; if there are plans to assemble multidisciplinary teams including physicians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, dieticians et cetera within dedicated long-Covid clinics; if so, when these will be in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

- Bríd Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 47666/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long Covid was finalized in September 2021. On the back of this, an expert subgroup was set up under the office of the CCO to develop this MoC and was led by the National Lead for Integrated Care, with input from different stakeholders. Extensive literature reviews were conducted in relation to the prevalence of Long Covid, risk factors, symptoms profile and trajectory and approaches to treatment.

There was a paucity of research in children, with initial reports indicating that children recover quickly from Covid and that the incidence of Long Covid was very low in these populations. For children and young people suspected of having Long Covid, the diagnosis and care is therefore provided by GPs and General Paediatricians.

The National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and the National Clinical Advisors and Group Leads (NCAGL) for children and young people will continue to work closely with the HSE Long-Covid team to review evidence and support access to care.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations