

Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4 Head of Service, Primary Care Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo HSE, An Clochar, College Street, Ballyshannon, Co Donegal, F94 TPX4

www.hse.ie @hselive

t: 071 9834627 | 071 9834637

e: HOSPC.CHO1@hse.ie

20th October 2022

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

## Re: PQ 47802/22 - "To ask the Minister for Health the supports that the HSE is putting in place to assist general practitioner practices in County Donegal with supporting Ukrainian refugees; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy MacLochlainn

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.

The HSE is aware of the increased pressure facing General Practitioner services in Donegal and across the Community Healthcare Areas. With the increase in the number of people attending General Practitioner services who experience challenges in communicating their health needs in English, the HSE has established access to interpreting funded by the HSE. In consultation with local General Practitioners we are in the process of establishing GP sessional clinics for members of the Ukrainian community temporary placed in accommodation across Donegal.

The HSE have recruited a number of Intercultural staff to support members of the Ukrainian community access health services with a focus on supporting those who have a history of long-term conditions. We have also entered into Service Agreements with local development companies who have recruited refugee and interpreting staff to support members of the Ukrainian community access local services and assist them navigate local health and social care supports.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall Liatroim Muineachán Sligeach

Head of Service, Primary Care Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo