



**Michael Moriarty**  
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22nd February, 2023

Ms. Holly Cairns., T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 7750/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health his plans to reopen a South Doc Service in Kinsale, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

South West Doctors on Call Limited is an Out of Hours Family Doctor service for urgent medical care in Counties Cork and Kerry with its administrative headquarters and call centre in Killarney, Co Kerry. It has a membership of over 500 GPs and a network of 26 treatment centres of which eight are overnight and supported by a fleet of 19 vehicles, which are fully equipped for home visit situations.

SouthDoc provides a medical service to a population of approximately 736,000 in addition to the 3.3M visitors to the area, and dealt with over 231,000 patient contacts in 2022.

The main centre of SouthDoc service delivery for Bandon and Kinsale region is based in the Bandon Treatment Centre. The area is supported by two Doctors on duty and one overnight. One Doctor is based in the Treatment Centre, while the second Doctor is predominantly mobile for home visits including to the Kinsale area. There are no plans to reopen a treatment Centre in Kinsale. The area is well serviced and supported from Bandon where the Doctors come together with the Kinsale Doctors to fulfil an out of hours commitment. The availability of Doctors to sustain a separate Kinsale Treatment Centre is inadequate, hence the dependency on Bandon.

SouthDoc continues to deliver the service in response to the patient needs in a manner, which assures safety, ease and equity of access and does not have any plans to alter the service in any way that would diminish this ethos. All patients are dealt with in accordance with their clinical needs.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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