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25th July 2023

Deputy Denis Naughten,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 34571/23

To ask the Minister for Health the reason emergency respite funding was withdrawn from an organisation (details supplied) overnight recently; if he will reverse this decision in light on the hardship being caused due to the lack of respite availability since Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The HSE in collaboration with our funded partner Family Carer's Ireland (FCI), as part of the HSE National Service Planning (NSP) 2021 process, commenced the National Emergency Respite Scheme Pilot on the 1st of June 2021 as part of the COVID-19 response. The aim of the Pilot is to provide a further support for people with dementia and their families in addition and as an alternative to traditional residential, respite and day care services.

An evaluation is currently underway in respect of the output of the Pilot with the potential for inclusion as part of the NSP 2024 process. In the interim, the HSE has communicated a commitment to the FCI for the ongoing provision of the Pilot throughout the course of 2023.

Regards,

Janette Dwyer
Assistant National Director,
Services for Older People, Change & Innovation