



Office of the Head of Primary Care  
Services  
Community Health Organisation  
Midlands Louth Meath

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5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Deputy Brian Stanley  
Leinster House  
Kildare St.  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 47529/23 – To ask the Minister for Health what extra capacity has been added to the local health services to provide for the additional 950 asylum seekers in Stradbally and for the local population; who will provide these services; and if they are now in place – Brian Stanley**

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you recently submitted. In preparing this response your representation has been discussed with the relevant Managers. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

#### **Update as at 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

Each site identified for migrant occupancy has an identified site manager. A HSE representative from the migrant health team has been in contact with the site manager in Stradbally on a frequent basis. It has been advised that while there are some arrivals later this week and the capacity is there for 950 residents, it is not expected that this number of migrant occupancy will be reached.

As part of the HSE's response to the Ukrainian conflict and the significant increase in International Protection Applicants accommodate across Ireland. Each Community Health Organisation (CHO) has been allocated additional funding to establish a CHO migrant health response including: migrant health team, catch-up immunisations, GP sessional clinics, psychosocial supports and a central governance function on a fixed term basis. The above teams are staffed with clerical officers, PHNs, RGNs, Assistant Director of Nursing, interpreters, relationship manager, peer support workers, Psychologists and data analyst.

The Migrant Health team covering the area are ready to perform site visits once the residents have started arriving. The team will distribute welcome packs to the arrivals, which will contain information on Health services available to them in addition to an application form for a Medical Card.

All residents will be given a health screening and their medical histories will be identified where possible. Dates have been arranged for sessional GP Clinics and there will also be clinics for administering the Covid and Flu vaccines. There will also be a daily visit to the site from a Paramedic/Advanced Paramedic from the company "Code Blue".

#### **Update as of 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023**

Currently there are 35 residents on site, they have the capacity to accommodate 950 residents.



The site manager is expecting the remaining 35 residents to be moving at the beginning of March and has been told to expect more arrivals from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March – no numbers have been provided at this time.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Ruane', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Ruane  
Head of Primary Care Services  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation