



**CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE**

CABHÁN DÚN NA NGALL LIATROIM MUINEACHÁN SLIGEACH  
CAVAN DONEGAL LEITRIM MONAGHAN SLIGO

**Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil**  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall  
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach  
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha  
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27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Deputy Thomas Pringle  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 13886/24**

*“To ask the Minister for Health when it is planned to restore physiotherapy clinics to St. Joseph's Hospital, Stranorlar; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Pringle

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 for Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo.

I can confirm that the HSE met with representatives from the “Save our St. Joseph’s Hospital Committee” on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

As previously advised, following an inspection undertaken by HIQA, essential fire upgrade works were identified that needed to be completed within a specified timeframe to ensure that HIQA requirements are met and St. Joseph’s Community Hospital remains fully operational.

In order to complete these works, patients needed to be relocated within the hospital, and the most suitable area identified was the Primary Care Physiotherapy Department (formerly known as Drogheda Ward). This move ensured that existing patients in the hospital are catered for and will not be disturbed by the works. It also ensures that bed numbers can be retained to facilitate short-stay admissions from the acute sector and to maintain the continuity of hospital discharges and patient flow from Letterkenny University Hospital.

The inpatient Primary Care Physiotherapy Service will continue to be provided to the residents of St. Joseph’s Hospital at their bedside as historically has been the practice. The Physiotherapy Department also provided an outpatient service to the community at St. Joseph’s; however, due to the urgent need for clinically-safe accommodation required to deliver this service, the Outpatient Primary Care Physiotherapy Service has temporarily had to relocate to Donegal Town Community Hospital and to Lifford Community Hospital Outpatients area.

The services have communicated with affected service users advising on which centre to attend for appointment and notified all other stakeholders of the relocation. The HSE wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused as a result of these upgrade works.



As part of the HSE's overall service delivery plan and in the best interests of service users in the longer term, Primary Care Services, including Physiotherapy Services, will be provided from the Finn Valley area in accordance with patients' needs. Work is therefore ongoing to secure suitable appropriate accommodation in the Finn Valley area to enable Outpatient Primary Care Physiotherapy Services to be restored to the local area as soon as possible.

The HSE is looking at a plan to locate all Primary Care Services in one building, i.e. Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Dentistry, Occupational Therapy. This accommodation will enable Primary Care to deliver the additional services under the Enhanced Community Care Programme (Slaintecare), and will support the staff in the East Network Primary Care Team, enabling this team to work in a cohesive and integrated way with their colleagues.

The HSE will continue to liaise with all relevant stakeholders in this matter.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Evelyn Connolly'.

**Evelyn Connolly**  
**Acting Head of Service**  
**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil**  
**Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall Liatroim Muineachán Sligeach**

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