



Oifig an Bainisteoir Ginearálta,  
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22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

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

**PQ ref 9153/24**

St Joseph's Hospital, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal

*"To ask the Minister for Health when the day centre service will be reinstated to a hospital (details supplied)."*

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn

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.

All Older Persons Day Services had to be closed in March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Following the resumption of services in 2022/2023, the Infection Control Team and HSE Estates were instrumental in reviewing facilities for re-opening in accordance with National Guidance. Some facilities that were formerly used for OPS Day Services, including the day hospital at St. Joseph's, were deemed unsuitable from an infection control and structural perspective. Consequently, HSE Property Management and Estates have since been trying to source alternative available and suitable premises in local areas for the safe delivery of day services for older people.

Following the closure of the day hospital at St. Joseph's during Covid, the National Ambulance Service relocated an ambulance base to where the day hospital had previously been located. There were then plans to relocate the day hospital to the Drogheda Ward in St. Joseph's but, due to further planned refurbishment works in the hospital, this proposal is now on hold.

However, an extensive search of the Finn Valley area for alternative appropriate premises for the delivery of day care services for older people in the catchment area has been ongoing and I am pleased to confirm that a suitable facility has now been identified in the Crossroads and Killygordon Enterprise (CAKE) building in Killygordon.

Refurbishment works are progressing well on the building, with a view to opening it for day care services in Quarter 2 of this year following completion of the required works.



In the interim, all clients that had previously been attending day services in St. Joseph's have been offered alternative day care in Killygordon or Letterkenny Day Centres until such time as day services are up and running again in the Finn Valley area.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a decorative flourish at the end.

On behalf of  
Martin Collum,  
General Manager,  
Services for Older Persons,  
Community Healthcare, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Cavan & Sligo,  
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