

14th May, 2024.

Mr. Brendan Griffin, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 19552/24

"To ask the Minister for Health the up-to-date situation regarding physiotherapy services in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Details supplied: For the Kenmare Area and also the Caherciveen Day Centre. These services have been withdrawn/cut back. Can you please advise of when they will be reinstated/increased.

Dear Deputy Griffin,

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.

The current vacancy in Kenmare is as a result of resource deficits due to the present recruitment pause. Efforts to increase resources throughout and reduce waiting times are indeed our top priority. There is currently a satellite service being provided by a Senior Physiotherapist who attends Kenmare twice a week to provide review of patients in Kenmare hospital and to see priority Domiciliary patients. It is on a priority basis to facilitate patient flow from the acute sector and discharges to the home setting, due to workforce shortages across the sector. Kenmare outpatient referrals requiring outpatient physiotherapy are being offered appointments in the Killarney clinic at present.

The Primary Care Physiotherapy Department provide services daily to Caherciveen Day Hospital and also run a 30 min exercise class once per week. If the physiotherapist needs to respond to urgent community needs such as Physio inputs to avoid hospital admissions or to facilitate discharge, this is prioritised. Caherciveen has had no reduction in staffing so service is unchanged.

We are actively working on strategies to address resources allocation, validation of waiting lists, streamlining processes and optimising existing workloads, ultimately working towards providing timely access for all to services.

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

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

