

3rd October, 2024

Mr. David Stanton, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 39509/24

"To ask the Minister for Health the plans for the unoccupied section of the primary care centre in Cobh, County Cork; when he expects it to be fully occupied; and if he will make a statement on the matter"

Dear Deputy Stanton,

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.

Primary Care Community Healthcare Networks are organised and provide services on a population basis as outlined in the "Slaintecare Report" and the "Programme for Government: Our shared future". Ireland has an aging population and it is predicted that there will be a 32% increase in over 65s and 41% increase in over 85s by 2026. There are 96 networks nationwide. There are 14 networks operational across Cork and Kerry and Network 7 covers Cobh, Glanmire and Carrigtohill. I refer to your representation regarding services that will be provided in the new Primary Care Centre in Cobh.

The community healthcare network:

- Aims to strengthen collaborative multi-disciplinary team working in Primary Care;
- Ensures a more co-ordinated and consistent care for people using our services;
- Improves Integration with our community Services; and
- Manages and delivers local services to a defined population.

The new primary care centre is fundamental to the delivery of service reforms set out in "Slainte Care" and the roll-out of the new Regional Health Authority's in Network 7, thus is a key priority for the HSE in 2024 and beyond. It will assist in the provision of safe and effective health and social care services in Cobh and will improve our health service and the health and wellbeing of the people living in Cobh by providing the "right care, in the right place, at the right time". It will support service users to live well and feel connected to their community. This empowerment in turn will assist service users to live independent lives in their own homes in Cobh. The co-location of services will also assist disciplines to provide person centred and optimal care for service users, families and the public in a way that is integrated and coordinated, thus instilling trust and confidence in the organisation.

There are some remaining items to be addressed before staff can provide services in the Primary Care Centre in Cobh such as IT connection to the HSE server and access to the building. These items are progressing rapidly however and it is hoped to have the building open for some services in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Initially, these services will include Public Health Nursing, Area Medical Officer, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Dental services. In addition, Mental Health Services will also be provided in the Primary Care Centre.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mari O'Donovan', written in a cursive style.

Mari O'Donovan
Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare