



Deputy Louis O'Hara
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

11 September 2025

PQ: 46624/25

To ask the Minister for Health the engagements she has had with the HSE since storm Éowyn this year to ensure that vulnerable people with medical conditions are supported during times of storm related electricity and water outages given many vulnerable people received minimal State support in the aftermath of storm Éowyn; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Hara,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

Proactive Measures Prior to Storm Éowyn

Prior to the arrival of Storm Éowyn, the HSE ensured that all clinically vulnerable patients particularly those in community settings were proactively contacted and arrangements put in place for their continued care. This approach included a variety of measures including logistical support, provision of alternate or additional power supply, admission to HSE facilities where necessary, and rescheduling of patient care to ensure continuity of essential services.

Vulnerable Persons Lists and Support

Since Storm Éowyn earlier this year, the HSE has taken multiple steps to ensure that vulnerable individuals with medical conditions are supported during storm-related electricity and water outages, following recognition that some vulnerable people received minimal State support in the immediate aftermath. Managers are required to maintain and validate lists of vulnerable service users, ensuring they are up-to-date and accurate to facilitate timely assistance when needed.

Humanitarian Sub-Groups and Community Response

In response to the storm, the National Emergency Co-ordination Group (NECG) activated a Humanitarian Assistance Sub-Group. This sub-group worked closely with local authorities to coordinate support at a community level for people most impacted. Community Assistance Hubs were also established in several counties to provide essential services such as showers, charging facilities, and refreshments.

**Ongoing Review and Planning**

The HSE continues to review and refine its Severe Weather Response Plans, including the management of vulnerable persons lists and the deployment of appropriate support mechanisms during severe weather conditions.

In conclusion, while Storm Éowyn highlighted areas for improvement, the HSE, in collaboration with local authorities, state agencies, and community organizations, has strengthened its preparedness and response mechanisms to better protect vulnerable individuals during storm-related disruptions.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Tom McGuinness
Assistant National Director,
HSE National Office for Emergency Management