



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú  
Sóisialta  
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse  
Sláinte  
Lána an Mhuilinn  
Baile Phámar  
Baile Átha Cliath 20

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National Social Inclusion Office  
Primary Care Division  
Health Service Executive  
Mill Lane  
Palmerstown  
Dublin 20

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

Deputy Gerry Adams  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 21938/17**

\* To ask the Minister for Health the details of the HSE pilot for hospital discharge protocol in cases of homelessness; when the pilot commenced; the hospitals within the pilot; the additional resources which have been allocated to the pilot; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Adams,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

As the Deputy will be aware a National Hospital Discharge Protocol for Homelessness (Guidance Framework) was approved in line with the HSE Integrated Care Guidance Policy 2014 and the Implementation Plan on the State's Response to Homelessness 2014. The aim of this protocol is to ensure that clear procedures are in place, involving the Health Services, Local Authorities/Homeless Action Teams and the Voluntary Sector, so that all discharges of persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness from acute and mental health care services are planned, with the necessary accommodation and supports in place prior to discharge. (See reply to PQ 32360/16).

Since issuing the National Hospital Discharge Protocol for Homelessness (Guidance Framework) a local protocol is being operationalised across the Dublin Region with pilot activities in St James Hospital and the Mater Hospital. Further developments are underway within the South East, West, Midland and North West Homeless Regions.

It has been agreed with the representatives of the housing representatives of the Sub-committee of the County and City Managers Association (CCMA) to finalise the Dublin protocol then adapt it to other areas.

To date no additional resources have been allocated to the pilot.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Joseph Doyle  
National Planning Specialist