



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

3 February 2021

Deputy Peadar Toibin
Dail Eireann
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin

Dear Deputy Toibin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question (PQ) which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 2782/21

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to instances in which staff in nursing homes are struggling to care for patients and are seeking assistance from members of the public or the HSE in feeding and providing drinks to patients.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is replying to you on behalf of the Department of Health following your recent query to the Minister for Health, on whether his attention has been drawn to instances in which staff in nursing homes are struggling to care for patients and are seeking assistance from members of the public or the HSE in feeding and providing drinks to patients.

In line with recommendations from the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), the HSE has rapidly stood up and continues to provide a range of supports for both public and private Nursing Homes, including clinical advice, infection prevention and control guidance, access to staff training and education, prioritisation of staff for testing, supply of PPE, temporary staff accommodation and redeployment of HSE staff in exceptional cases to ensure continued safe care.

Due to the current, ongoing wave of Covid-19 infections, there is a high number of staff currently on Covid-19 related leave across public and private healthcare facilities. In instances where private facilities have notified the HSE regarding low staffing levels, the HSE has worked with nursing home providers to support the procurement of agency healthcare staff. If this was not possible, the HSE has aimed to identify appropriate HSE staff for redeployment to nursing homes. In some instances, where all options were exhausted, the defence forces were engaged to provide support through the carrying out of non-clinical duties.



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The HSE wishes to highlight that the organisation does not have a legislative based authority specific to private and voluntary residential centres. As such, while the HSE continues to provide support and engage in ongoing discourse with private and voluntary providers across the nursing home sector, the HSE is not in a position to provide comment on these facilities.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.