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17th September, 2021

Deputy David Cullinane Dáil Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

PQ Ref: PQ43129/21

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health if he will address the immediate funding need for dementia specific daycare services provided by a society (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland received funding of €12,096,619 through Service Level Agreements with the HSE in 2020 which includes funding for dementia day care services, home support services, social clubs, Alzheimer's cafe's and the Dementia Adviser service.

In response to COVID-19, the National Service Plan 2021 allocated funding for the provision of Day Care at Home services for people living with dementia in the community. The Day Care at Home model provides an interim alternative model of care and support to day care clients and families when they do not have access to a day care service due to COVID-19.

Day Care at Home utilises day care staff to deliver a day care experience to clients in their home, with the provision of social and activity-based care with minimum personal care; delivered in two hour blocks. The aim is to provide continuity of care and support to clients and families until day care services are operating as normal.

A proportion of the NSP 2021 funding for day care at home was allocated to the Alzheimer Society of Ireland for the provision of this service (€1,737,770). Given the recent phased reopening of day care services, a reduced demand for day care at home services and costs for re-opening, the HSE is working with the ASI to reallocate part of this funding to cover non-salary costs for ASI day services.

Seirbhís Sláinte | Building a Níos Fearr | Better Health á Forbairt | Service Regards,

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Janette Dwyer, Assistant National Director, Change and Innovation, Services for Older People & Dementia Care,