

14th February 2024

Marian Harkin T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 53202/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to an issue raised (details supplied), if he can provide an update on any progress made on the re-opening of the hydrotherapy pool at a location; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”.

The re-opening of the hydrotherapy pool at a location Cregg House, Sligo.

Dear Deputy Harkin

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Disability Services Manager for Sligo/Leitrim received an email on 26.10.2023 from the Head of Operations of Woodbrook Care, the management company representing the owner of the property formerly known as the “Cregg Campus”. The Disability Services Manager had previously confirmed that Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) Disability Services would be interested in engaging with Woodbrook Care in relation to re-opening the hydrotherapy pool for people using Disability Services in Sligo/Leitrim.

The Head of Operations of Woodbrook Care stated that they are currently investigating the viability of re-opening the hydrotherapy unit. Due to the significant length of time the pool has been closed, considerable investment will be required in order to restore it to an operational standard. Ongoing costs will also be significant due to increases in wages, fuel price inflation etc.

Woodbrook Care understand that Sligo/Leitrim Disability Services are interested in using the hydrotherapy unit two days per week, from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Woodbrook Care have advised that they will make the unit available to the HSE, for a specific daily rate, with the following additional conditions:

- That the HSE enter into a minimum of a 36 month contract with annual increases in rates linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- That Woodbrook Care employ a pool attendant, who will be onsite throughout the day in order to assist with hoisting people in and out of the pool where necessary, monitor the water quality and generally ensure the unit is clean, tidy and running well. This person may not be a qualified lifeguard.



- That a maximum of ten people can be in the pool at any time (as was the case prior to closure).
- Further terms and conditions will have to be agreed upon.

On agreement of costings and conditions with the HSE, Woodbrook Care believe they can have the unit open by the end of Q1 2024.

Sligo Leitrim Disability Services are currently completing a business case regarding the funding/costing required in order to avail of the hydrotherapy pool.

Sligo Leitrim Disability Services continue to endeavour to support individuals to avail of alternative hydrotherapy and swimming resources in the Sligo Leitrim area, as an interim measure.

Kindly note this response was held due to Fórsa Industrial Action, which has now been lifted.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Quinn'.

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CH CDLMS
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar CDLMS