



6th August, 2024

Deputy Denis Naughten, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE PQ 32944/24

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 407 of 7 March 2024, the timetable for planned revision of the model of care for long-Covid; if this will make specific provision for children; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Infectious Diseases on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The HSE launched its Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long Covid in September 2021. This model of care recommended the establishment of six Long Covid clinics across the country, representing each hospital group, with appropriate staffing support. Work immediately began on the implementation of this and other recommendations from the Model, to allow for provision of supports and services for those experiencing prolonged symptoms of Covid-19.

In 2022, the HSE approved funding for an epidemiological survey to be conducted to provide insight and understanding into the prevalence of Long Covid in Ireland, to help understand more about how people are recovering from COVID-19. FADA stands for "Follow-up After Disease Acquisition". This study looked at the development of persistent symptoms following a COVID-19 diagnosis, capturing lived experiences of respondents. The results of this FADA study are awaited.

More details on this study are available on the HSE's website at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/publichealth/publichealthdepts/research/long-covid-study/>

In December 2022, HIQA published a review of clinical guidelines and models of care for Long Covid. The outcome of the review is that the current HSE Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long Covid is broadly consistent with international models.

Revision of the current HSE Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long Covid will be determined pending review of evidence, including results of the epidemiological FADA survey.

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

Anne Horgan
General Manager

