



11th March, 2024

Deputy David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 10736/24

To ask the Minister for Health to report on the development of the model of care for long-Covid and similar conditions or syndromes; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 for Long COVID in September 2021 and work immediately began on the implementation of recommendations from the Model, to allow for provision of supports and services for those experiencing prolonged symptoms of COVID-19.

This Model of Care recommended the establishment of Post-Acute COVID Clinics and Long COVID Clinics across the country. All six Long COVID Clinics are now established and receiving patients.

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, as well as risk factors for its development.

In December 2022, The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) published a review of clinical guidelines and models of care for Long COVID. In July 2023, HIQA published a systematic review of 57 randomised controlled trials that considered interventions for adults with symptoms of Long COVID. These publications, along with the findings from the epidemiological survey, will help inform a review of the HSE's Interim Model of Care for Long COVID and help forecast demand for services into the future.

The HSE's National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Infectious Diseases is currently working on an overarching model of care to support high quality of care, integration and equity of services in the management of infectious diseases in Ireland, to set the vision for delivery of infectious diseases services into the future. It is planned that the HSE's Interim Model of Care for Long COVID will be incorporated into this overarching document.

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

