



22nd March, 2024

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

PQ 11393/24

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 653 of 11 July 2023, if he will outline the planned revision of the model of care for long Covid; when the model of care was last reviewed; 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, 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. The MoC recommended the establishment of six Long Covid clinics across the country representing each hospital group, with appropriate staffing support.

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, HIQA published a review of clinical guidelines and Models of Care for Long Covid. The HSE commissioned HIQA to undertake a review of the Interim Model of Care to look at the evidence available internationally, this resulted in a publication of the HIQA July report in 2023. These publications, along with the findings from the epidemiological survey, will help inform further review of the interim MoC, and help forecast demand for services into the future.

The National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases was established in 2020. The programme office is currently working on an overarching MoC to support high quality of care, integration and equity of services in the management of Infectious Diseases in Ireland, and to set the vision for delivery of Infectious Diseases services into the future. It is planned that the interim MoC 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

Elaine Dobell
General Manager