



Nursing Homes Ireland
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Phelim Quinn
CEO,
Health Information and Quality Authority,
George's Court,
George's Lane,
Dublin 7.
D07 E98Y

27th March 2020

Dear Phelim,

In the first instance I hope that you, your family and all in the Authority are safe and well.

I refer to our recent communication and in particular my email on 14th March and request to meet.

We remain concerned that not enough attention is being paid by National Public Health Emergency Team to the specific risks and issues that will arise for residents in nursing homes because of Covid-19. As you are aware, nursing homes currently care for 30,000 of Ireland's most vulnerable people.

On a constant basis, we are engaged with nursing homes across the country that inform of the constant and escalating pressures during Covid-19. I can confirm that I have written to HSE CEO in relation to HSE guidance on contingency planning to address Covid19 outbreak in a nursing home.

In countries where the virus has spread more extensively than it has to date in Ireland, some nursing homes have become overwhelmed, with tragic consequences.

HIQA is a member of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) Subgroup on Vulnerable People and there are a number of issues in the private and voluntary nursing home that require immediate attention. I also note that HIQA is represented on the inter-agency working group be established to report on nursing homes to the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) Subgroup on Vulnerable People.

During Covid-19, we believe there is requirement for enhanced engagement between nursing homes and you, the regulator, and it is important you are continuously informed regarding the key challenges being faced by providers.

It is vital we work collectively to address this unprecedented challenge for our health services and wider society and we resolutely support such an approach.

I again request a meeting between HIQA and NHI and look forward to hearing from you

We remain committed to working with you and your colleagues in the Authority during this extremely challenging time for our country.

Yours sincerely,



Tadhg Daly,
CEO

cc Mary Dunnion, Chief Inspector of Social Services