

Tadhg Daly
Chief Executive Officer
Nursing Homes Ireland
2051 Castle Drive
Citywest
Dublin 24

13 May 2020

Ref: PQ/EMcC/TD/20200513

Dear Tadhg

Thank you for your letter dated 12 May 2020 in respect of the article in the Irish Times dated 11 May 2020.

I want to assure you that whilst you articulate offence at the use of some of the language within the article, the comments made in respect of the opening up of nursing homes to visitors were conveyed on the basis of potential measures outlined to us by a number of nursing home providers. Perspex dividers such as those used in secure facilities was one such suggestion to us by a provider.

It is as a result of the comments made by a number of committed nursing home providers concerned at the continued isolation of residents that we have written to the HPSC seeking the development of public health guidance on how providers can safely open up their centres to visiting.

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In addition, we are well aware of the circumstances providers have described and found themselves in in what is the most serious crisis for the entire health and social care sector in over a century. It for that reason that HIQA continues to commit itself to providing advice and support across to registered providers and to ensuring that the care and welfare of vulnerable residents remains our key objective.

In respect of your comment on the relationship between the private nursing home sector and the HSE, I am sure you are aware that this comment was not made in respect of any relationships that have been developed as a result of the pandemic. The status of the pre-existing relationship between registered providers in receipt of NHSS funding and the HSE has been clearly articulated as a factor that needed to be specifically addressed as the crisis deepened in recent weeks.

Thank you for enclosing the NHI discussion document on easing visitor restrictions which we will be happy to consider in addition to the anticipated public health advice on the matter.

Yours sincerely,



PHELIM QUINN
Chief Executive

Cc Mary Dunnion

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