

Stephen Donnelly TD  
Minister for Health  
Department of Health  
Block 1 Miesian Plaza  
50-58 Lower Baggot St  
Dublin 2

27 August 2020

Ref: PQ/EMcC/MSD/20200827

Dear Minister,

### **Nursing Homes Expert Panel - Final Report**

Thank you for your letter and the attachment of the Nursing Homes Expert Panel - Final Report, dated 18 August 2020.

HIQA welcomes the Nursing Homes Expert Panel - Final Report and is committed to working with your Department and other relevant agencies to ensure that the services provided to nursing home residents are safer and better. As the regulator of the sector, we recognise that the delivery of safe, quality services is primarily dependent on the provider having effective management and governance arrangements in their nursing home(s). We are pleased to see the recommendations include a time bound review of the current regulations and legislation which in turn will provide the necessary framework to safely assess a provider's preparedness and capacity in respect of COVID-19.

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Taking account of the proposed changes to sectoral reform, provider reporting arrangements and oversight requirements, HIQA will formalise its response in its business plan and performance framework, and will submit a business case to the Department in line with the timeline described in your letter.

As requested, I have made nominations to the oversight structures. I acknowledge the many challenges that lie ahead and I am anxious to see that the recommendations are progressed in a realistic timeframe.

Should you require any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**PHELIM QUINN**  
Chief Executive Officer

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