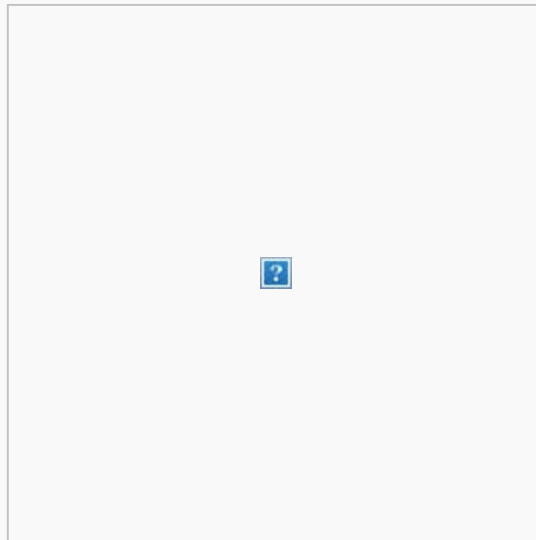


**From:** Tadhg Daly  
**To:** [Fiona Kenny](#)  
**Subject:** Covid-19 / Coronavirus: Update re recruitment & representations  
**Date:** Tuesday 17 March 2020 15:37:26

---

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Member,

Initially, I take this opportunity to wish you and your colleagues a very Happy St Patrick's Day.

We take this opportunity to update you with regard to:

- **NHI Recruitment drive launched today, St Patrick's Day**
- **Representation to Minister for Health Simon Harris re Department of Health / HSE Recruitment Drive**
- **Guidance re COVID-19 case presenting for nursing home**
- **Representation to Government re challenges presenting**
- **Your representations required: Inform health spokespersons & TDs of challenges presented for our sector**
- **Irish Times article re nursing home care & Coronavirus - a relative's perspective**

**NHI Recruitment drive launched today, St Patrick's Day**

NHI has communicated with media to inform: "*On St Patrick's Day, Nursing Homes Ireland has appealed to people within our hospitality and retail sectors to look for opportunities that will present in providing care to older people during the Coronavirus emergency. Staffing needs will arise for nursing homes in meeting the care needs of older people, with the disciplines in nursing homes being wide-ranging. Roles on a temporary basis that may interest*

*people could include those of healthcare professionals including nurses and physios, healthcare assistants, catering, activities, ancillary or administrative support."*

We have urged people who feel they can contribute to care of the older person to present such to nursing homes by way of outlining their skillset in a short email and to present their CV with it. So please be aware you may receive representations from people offering their skillsets and interested in fulfilling roles in the coming days and we ask you to treat expressions of interest with respect. Furthermore, we have informed engagement can be undertaken by candidates with NHI with regard to identifying prospective nursing homes.

[Read our communication to media in full here and we will promote it on our own channels.](#)

### **Representation to Minister for Health Simon Harris re Department of Health / HSE Recruitment Drive**

You are likely aware today the Department of Health and HSE are launching a National Recruitment Campaign. Today we have written to Minister Harris with regard to the campaign. This follows on from letters previously issued to Minister Harris and senior health officials (9th March) with regard to State recruitment of people from our sector. Our letter today states: "*The potential recruitment of staff from our sector will be to the severe detriment of people in nursing home care who present with severe underlying health conditions. Loss of nursing and care staff during a constrained recruiting period can jeopardise the care provided to nursing home residents during this national emergency. Nursing homes have very real concerns in respect of the potentially huge challenges now presented. If nursing home staff are targeted, private and voluntary nursing homes may find that they will have to reduce capacity, thereby placing intolerable pressure on an already overstretched acute hospital system.*" We will keep Members updated accordingly with regard to this critical issue.

### **Guidance re COVID-19 case presenting for nursing home**

Our representations to the HSE and Department of Health with regard to comprehensive guidance to assist nursing homes in providing care to their residents in the current situation continues. We have been informed the drafted guidance is being reviewed by relevant agencies and will be provided to NHI shortly.

### **Representation to Government re challenges presenting**

Yesterday, we communicated with the Department of Health and opposition health spokespersons with regard to key challenges being presented to the

sector and the requirement for State support. Our communication to them informed regarding the requirement to support our sector in:

- PPE Equipment
- Essential Workers
- Workforce Planning
- Emergency Services support for our sector

**Your representations required: Inform health spokespersons & TDs of challenges presented for our sector**

We encourage Members to engage with political party health and older person spokespersons and also local TDs to inform of the challenges being presented to you. Covid-19 presents a national health emergency and the challenges being presented to private and voluntary nursing homes must not be overlooked. A copy of the email issued yesterday can be provided to support your representations.

**Irish Times article re nursing home care & Coronavirus - a relative's perspective**

Click to read article in today's Irish Times: [‘Luckily, he is oblivious to the coronavirus crisis’: Daddy, dementia and me](#). The article features an interview with Áine Ryan, speaking about the present scenario presented with Coronavirus and care for her father George in a nursing home. The article states:

*"A couple of days later a text message lands from George's nursing home explaining that strict visitor restrictions were being implemented because of the developing coronavirus crisis. Family and friends should only visit if the circumstances were urgent and should always phone the nursing home beforehand, the message stated. No non-essential visiting, children, or groups are allowed, it continued. That all made perfect sense to me and, indeed, still does even though Dr Tony Holohan, the HSE's chief medical officer, has now said that "blanket restrictions" were unnecessary at this stage in the crisis, adding that social interaction was key to the well-being of nursing home residents. This, of course, was before Thursday's announcement by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar of the partial shutdown of the country.*

*Frankly, I had felt a huge sense of relief that the decision to visit Daddy was being taken out of my hands.*

**Hysteria**

*I trust the original decision, which was made under the advice of Nursing Homes Ireland, and clearly supported by the expert staff who have cared for*

*George every day since he became a resident almost five years ago.  
What I liked about the message was that it was low-key and had no hint of hysteria. "Phew," I exhaled as I read the message a second time."*

Enjoy the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Yours,  
Michael McGlynn,  
Communications & Research Executive

---



[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Website](#)

---

*Copyright © \*|2019|\* \*|Independent Nursing Homes Ireland Limited|\*, All rights reserved.  
Content is exclusive for Nursing Homes Ireland Members. Any person receiving Mailings without association to Nursing Homes Ireland is asked to notify Nursing Homes Ireland with immediacy.*

**Our mailing address is:**

[info@nhi.ie](mailto:info@nhi.ie)

**Our contact number is:**

+353 (0)1 4699800

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).