

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

Our Ref: PQ/EMcC/SD/20211210

10 December 2021

Dear Minister,

**Concerns regarding the governance and management of social care  
Community Healthcare Organisation 1 (CHO1)**

I am writing to inform you of HIQA's concerns in relation to the Health Service Executive (HSE) governance, management and oversight of social care in Community Healthcare Organisation 1 (CHO1) at both a local and Executive level. HIQA is also seriously concerned about the effectiveness of the surveillance, identification and management of adult and children safeguarding concerns.

The Chief Inspector, in the context of HIQA functions under section 8 of the Health Act 2007 as amended, has brought to my attention concerns in relation to the ongoing governance of social care in CHO 1 and more recently a very serious adult and child safeguarding concern. While the Chief Inspector is assured the appropriate actions have now been taken in relation to this issue, she advised me there was a significant delay in the HSE response to the risk, and the reporting of that risk to the Chief Inspector as required by the regulations.

These issues raise serious concerns for HIQA, whose object is to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and person social services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public. HIQA is not assured the performance of the HSE is ensuring safe quality care for people in receipt of social care in this area.

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The Chief Inspector, through her function and powers will attend to and deal with the regulatory issues in relation to these designated centres.

I am advised that the Chief Inspector has informed the Interim National Director Community Operations of her concerns and is awaiting a fulsome response by that office in relation to the regulatory issues.

Given our serious concerns in relation to the governance of this area I have also written to Paul Reid CEO, HSE and requested an immediate review of the governance in that CHO area and an assurance that residents are properly safeguarded. I have also requested a more in-depth governance review of CHO area 1 to provide assurance that these governance structures are robust, appropriately resourced and sustainable to deliver safe effective person-centred care. In addition, I have requested of the HSE a review of child and adult safeguarding measures to provide assurance that they are satisfied as to the effectiveness of their safeguarding systems.

Should you require any further information please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**PHELIM QUINN**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Cc. Anne Rabbitte TD, Minister of State for Disability, DoH  
Rachel Kenna, DoH  
Niall Redmond, DoH

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