



Rev. Fr. John Joe Duffy
& Members of the Save Our Service Action Group
Save Our Service Action Group
Co Donegal

17 February 2016

Dear Rev. Fr. Duffy,
Dear Members of the Save Our Service Action Group,

I enjoyed our discussions when I visited all three community hospitals in Ramelton, Lifford and Stranorlar, when I was in Donegal last week.

I am aware that these three community hospitals are considered to be home to many older people and provide a much needed service.

There is no doubt that these hospitals are essential to local families and the communities they serve. The Donegal model of having a large number of community hospitals in the county, with the added assistance of home-help hours, is an example to other counties.

While it is disappointing that these three units did not benefit from the most recent announcement by the outgoing Fine Gael/Labour Government, I can assure you that Fianna Fáil, if in Government, will ensure that these three community hospitals remain open to meet the great demand for their present services, and in particular, that the Residential Care Units/long stay beds will also remain in the three hospitals.

We will also commit to providing any needed capital funds to restore or renovate the hospitals to allow them to meet HIQA standards.

One of core priorities in our Party's Manifesto is to ensure that older people can live independently in their own home as long as possible. However, those who need to live in community hospitals need to be given as much support as possible to be allowed to be nursed in their local communities and in familiar surroundings.

I hope this clarifies our position.

I wish you continued success with your very important work.

Yours sincerely,

Micheál Martin
Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil

