



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

Deputy Jack Chambers  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House, Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
e-mail: [jack.chambers@oireachtas.ie](mailto:jack.chambers@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Chambers,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

#### **PQ 53457/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 393 of 19 November 2019, the status of the closure of a centre (details supplied); the efforts made to prevent its closure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response**

he HSE funds IWA as an independent legal entity, pursuant to Section 39 of the Health Act, in order to provide a range of supports and services to people with a disability. The IWA has decided to transition its holiday service in the West of Ireland to provide accessible hotel holidays into the future, and to move away from its holiday facility at Cuisle in County Roscommon as part of its reform programme.

The organisation is planning to provide a wider range of choice to people with disabilities seeking to take a supported respite holiday in the West of Ireland by partnering with accessible hotels. It is planned that this new and innovative service will commence in March 2020 in conjunction with the HSE. The move to the new holiday service means that the Cuisle buildings will not open in 2020.

IWA and HSE representatives were invited by Minister McGrath to meet on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of November in order to provide the necessary reassurances in respect of what is fundamentally a progressive and innovative way to meet the needs of people with a disability that wish to avail of holiday respite breaks. IWA stressed to Minister McGrath that the clear choice and preference of people with a disability is increasingly more about having access to positive and non-segregated settings and where existing commercial hotel provider settings implement universal design initiatives to accommodate people of all levels of abilities.

The HSE has had extensive interaction at all levels with IWA, both nationally and locally through Community Healthcare West (CHO 2) regarding the Cuisle Service in Roscommon and has been provided with an assurance of service continuity provided by IWA as part of its planned and funded provision.

Part of this engagement with IWA centred on the major capital works it has advised are necessary in order to render this commercially run centre safe and operable. In that context, it is critical to note that the IWA does not own the existing facility and the lease arrangement in place will expire in 2026. Additionally, it is the case that the existing Cuisle facility requires very significant new capital investment in order to undertake major upgrade works, estimated to be in the order of €1.5m and has also been advised that the costs could rise to €2m. HSE further understands that that this is a minimum estimate of costs associated with upgrades and which does not include potential for further works that may arise owing to the current building condition, including concerns regarding the presence of asbestos.

IWA have indicated that this level of capital funding is not available within their current resources. Equally, the HSE have confirmed to IWA that this level of capital investment is not available to HSE in the context of priorities set against our capital plan.

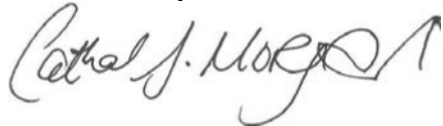
There are a number of concerns which the HSE must have regard to in relation to this commercial operation which are noted as follows in terms of considerations regarding any possible future investment;

- a. There are alternative service options/ models from which to deliver this form of holiday respite breaks (i.e. from existing and accessible commercial hotel facilities);
- b. There is no guarantee that IWAs, or indeed the states interest- should either party elect to invest in major upgrade works - would be protected having regard to the lease term (including the fact that the state would be investing in a facility under the private ownership arrangements of a Religious Order - i.e. the Divine Word Missionaries), and;
- c. HSE has a Capital investment programme which is aimed at prioritising core health building projects, including disability related initiatives such as Time to Move on from Congregate Settings (i.e. a programme aimed at assisting people with disabilities moving out from congregate / institutional settings). Additionally, the actual costs associated with upgrade works associated with the facility may in fact escalate.

Notwithstanding that the IWA is an independent legal entity entitled to reach its own decisions; the HSE will continue to maintain its liaison with IWA Senior Management over the coming weeks and as matters progress.

The HSE can also confirm that the existing funding envelope aligned to the Cuisle Accessible Holiday Resort will continue to be made available in order to ensure continuance of invaluable form of respite support and for the purpose of ensuring continuity of the existing quantum of support is maintained in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**