



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Baile Átha Cliath Theas,
Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara

Head of Service, Primary Care
Community Healthcare Dublin South,
Kildare & West Wicklow (CHO7)
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Tel: 045 882 527

28th February 2019

Noel Grealish
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 7582/19

Merchant's Quay Ireland, Merchants Quay, Dublin 8.

To ask the Minister for Health the opening hours of a health facility (details supplied) in Dublin city; the number of beds the facility accommodates; the numbers sleeping on the premises; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Noel Grealish

Dear Deputy Grealish,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Merchants Quay Ireland: RIVERBANK

Opening hours

Open	Close	Service
8:00	9:30	Breakfast
9:30	12.30	Contact/Case worker service
13:45	20:30	Lunch, Drop in, Dinner
23:00	7:30	Night café

Thursday - no service for staff training.

Saturday - service closed between 9:30 and 23:30.

Sunday - service closed between 13:45 and 23:00.

In addition to the above services, Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI) offers a Needle Exchange Service, Primary Care Services to include Mental Health Team, Nursing Team, Dentist, General Practitioner, as well as a range of Holistic Services.

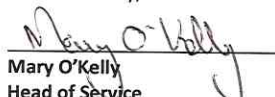
Number of beds and the number sleeping on the premises

There are no beds in the Night Café. People rest on yoga mats. Rough sleepers are referred to the service by calling the homeless 'Freephone' or through the Housing First Outreach Team operating on the streets at night.

These two services do everything possible to encourage people into a hostel or other emergency accommodation for the night. For those who are unable to or are afraid to access emergency accommodation, the Night Café is the last resort. Merchants Quay Ireland acknowledges that resting on yoga mats on a floor is far from ideal. The Night Café is a safe place off the streets where people can rest, eat, and receive assistance in finding a place to live. Throughout the night, the team offer a range of supports for people who are homeless, including hot showers and dry clothes, information and advice. The number of people referred to this service varies between 40 and 55 on a nightly basis.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service
Primary Care