



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Sóisialta,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Campas Gnó Shoird, Bóthar Bhaile Anraí,
Sord, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath, K67 D8H0.

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30th July, 2019

Ms Louise O'Reilly, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Head of Service Social Care,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 D8H0.

Email: louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie

Re: 23036: PQ ref 27235/19

"To ask the Minister for Health his views on reports that due to cost containment measures 27 medical step down respite beds will be closed at St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In March 2019 a Health and Safety Assessment was carried out in the main building of St. Mary's Hospital. The Health and Safety Assessment identified significant patient and safety risks in the main building and in particular one identified ward. In the last six months, the internal emergency plan was implemented four times to address significant heating outages. The significant environmental risks identified relate to safety/fire safety management, environmental (layout, physical size, age of facilities), fixtures, fitting and lighting. The flooring on the identified ward was found to be a significant risk to patients, visitors and staff due to the uneven floor and could be the cause of falls/trips. Parts of the floor were found to be buckling, had sunken floor boards and shiny surfaces that could appear wet.

In order to comply with legislative requirements and in the best interests of our patients the Management of CHO DNCC made the decision to close this ward. Staff were advised of this decision through their line management structure.

The 75 sub-acute short stay beds will reduce to 48 commencing in July 2019 and will be completed by August 2019.

All patients will remain in St. Mary's Hospital until their current care is completed and all commitments made in respect of future respite care will be honoured. Engagement with patients, their families, staff, union representatives and any other stakeholders is ongoing to ensure minimal impact for all concerned is achieved. There are no redundancy implications for staff as they will be re-assigned within St. Mary's Hospital.

Significant capital development is required to address the health and safety issues identified. There are significant challenges in bringing an 18th century building to meet HIQA standards and part of the capital development project process will be examining all options available to provide these services.

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

Yours sincerely

Olive Hanley
A/Head of Service - Social Care