



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Bainisteoir Ginearálta,
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Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

10th December 2020

PQ ref 40637/20

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the new ward in St. Joseph's Community Hospital, Stranorlar, County Donegal is not open; when it will open; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty

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 reviewed the matter and the following outlines the position.

According to the Rhatigan Report, the plan for this former ward in St Joseph's is that it would be refurbished to accommodate HSE Primary Care Teams. The refurbishment was completed in March 2020, and in April it was set up as a potential surge ward for Covid patients; thankfully to date it has not been needed for this purpose.

The space is currently being used for the following purposes:

- Re-enablement Team
- Occupational Therapy
- Continence Nurse Specialist
- Staff Training (Fire, Safeguarding)
- Fortnightly Serial Covid Testing, as required under IPC guidelines
- Physiotherapy - in January
- Dental and Chiropody – also expected to move in

Another section of the unit is being used for staff changing facilities in line with Covid-19 IPC guidance and until alternative changing facilities are available.
When a final decision is made on the future use for this refurbished space, consultation will commence with HIQA, if required.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Martin Collum
General Manager
Services for Older Persons
CHO 1.