



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Service - Older People
South East Community Healthcare
Lacken, Dublin Road
Kilkenny
R95NV08

29th June 2020

Mr. Mattie McGrath T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 10670/20

To ask the Minister for Health further to a response received from the HSE (details supplied), the exact nature of works being carried out at Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel, County Tipperary; the breakdown of jobs completed on-site and awaiting completion, respectively; the cost of works carried out; the funds from which the works are being paid for; the date on which transfers of patients from St. Patrick's Hospital is due to take place; the length of time it is envisaged that patients from St. Patrick's will remain in the hospital; the future plans for the hospital once the patients from St. Patrick's return there; if the information is not immediately available if it will be provided as soon as it is to hand; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed that matter and the following is the position.

St. Patrick's Hospital in Cashel (and its associated facility at St. Anthony's Unit in Clonmel) is a South East Community Healthcare residential centre for older people and provides long stay, respite, dementia and rehabilitation services for South Tipperary.

To ensure the safety of the older people of South Tipperary that were living in St. Patrick's Hospital Cashel during the current Covid-19 public health emergency, in consultation with the independent regulatory body the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), to maximise infection control measures, arrangements were made for residents and staff of St. Patrick's Hospital to move on an interim basis to accommodation and ancillary facilities established at the nearby former Our Lady's Hospital building in Cashel. Previous design work carried out at Our Lady's, following its closure in 2007, rendered it more adaptable to inpatient accommodation to modern standards which facilitated the move from St. Patrick's to meet infection control and regulatory requirements.

HBS Estates have advised that the following works were completed:

- Reconfigured bed layouts following reduction of bed numbers in multi-bed wards
- Improvements to toilets and en-suite accommodation
- Provision of new secure gardens for residents
- Upgraded fire safety measures
- Upgrade to medical gas, nurse-call, electrical and access control systems
- Upgrade of finishes including painting and redecoration

It is understood from HBS Estates that the above works undertaken in OL are estimated to amount to €500k (approximately) as part of Covid-19 capital funding.

On 8th June 2020 South East Community Healthcare completed the planned transfer of 49 residents from St. Patrick's Hospital to new facilities prepared at the former Our Lady's Hospital building in Cashel. This transfer from St. Patrick's was undertaken with the best interests of residents and staff in mind. The 26 bed St. Anne's/St. Bernadette's and 23 bed St. Benedict's wards at St. Patrick's Hospital have moved to the new accommodation and associated ancillary and recreational facilities in OL. It is anticipated that these arrangements will remain in situ until the new build planned for St. Patrick's in Cashel is ready.

HSE/South East Community Healthcare have liaised with staff representatives in respect of all arrangements being made in Cashel.

The present (21 bed) Rehabilitation Unit on site at St. Patrick's Hospital and (11 bed) St. Claire's Ward located on the grounds of OL are not affected by the transfer.

In turn, it is planned that available space at St. Patrick's will be utilised for some services currently based in the main OLC building in Cashel. HBS Estates have advised that further works are required in St. Patrick's Hospital in order to re-accommodate these services i.e. mainly the Child Therapy Services. It is understood that these full costings are not available at this time.

I trust that this is of assistance. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Barbara Murphy
Head of Service for Older People
South East Community Healthcare