



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

St Canices Hospital
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784494

18th June 2020

Ms Kathleen Funchion T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 9665/20

To ask the Minister for Health when appointments for outpatients are due to resume at the Department of Psychiatry in St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Funchion,

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.

Personnel from the Mental Health Service South East Community Healthcare and St Luke's Hospital are currently collaborating in identifying an area within St Luke's Hospital to facilitate the re-opening of the Mental Health Services Outpatients Department (OPD). When this area is identified the Mental Health Services will re-open the OPD clinics, adhering to ongoing guidance from Public Health. The existing OPD area previously used by Mental Health prior to Covid-19 does not meet the necessary social distancing requirements for Out Patient clinics. Patients continue to be seen in person, at home, in hospital or by telephone as appropriate.

Should you require any further information in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Heffernan".

David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare