



Oifig an Ms. Sarah McBride,
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach
Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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30th November, 2020

Ms. Neasa Hourigan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 37122/20

To ask the Minister for Health when a full recommencement of services at the community mental health centre in Mullingar, County Westmeath will take place; when all staff will be re-deployed to their original positions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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 outline response as follows.

We understand that changes to our services in the context of COVID 19 are impacting on some of our service users and this is regrettable.

The COVID 19 pandemic has led to the HSE reviewing and delivering some of our services in a different manner in order to reduce the risk of spread of COVID 19 among staff and service users in the context of Level 5 COVID 19 restrictions.

The Mental Health Service is implementing a large scale telehealth project which is seeing more services delivered through telehealth virtual platforms to ensure that services are as safe as they can be, in the context of containing the spread of COVID 19. Face to face appointments are all risk assessed and facilitated for more urgent cases and new referrals in our services.

Whilst some non-frontline staff were re-deployed initially during the first COVID 19 surge, the vast majority of the Mental Health frontline staff have returned to their roles in Mental Health, with all of our nursing staff working in their original positions in Mental Health.

Currently the Mental Health Allied Health Professionals are participating on a rota for testing one day every two weeks and this is due to completely cease mid December 2020.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah McBride', written in dark ink.

Sarah McBride
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation