



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

St Canice's Hospital
South East Community Healthcare
Lacken,
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784100

21st October 2020

Mr. Mattie McGrath T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 29696/20

To ask the Minister for Health the person or body that made the decision that a psychiatric unit (details supplied) would be redeveloped as a general hospital rather than reopening it as a psychiatric facility; the reason for this decision; the reason reopening this facility as a mental health facility was not considered; if reopening it as a mental health facility was considered; if not, the reason therefor; his plans for the provision of acute mental health beds in south County Tipperary; 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 the matter and the following is the current position.

The former St. Michael's Unit on the campus of South Tipperary General Hospital is now under the governance of the South/South West Hospital Group. St. Michael's Unit was officially closed on 16th July 2012 and since then all mental health acute inpatient services are provided at the Acute In-patient Unit, Department of Psychiatry, St. Luke's Hospital Kilkenny which is the designated 44 bedded approved centre for the Carlow, Kilkenny and South Tipperary area.

The South/South West Hospital Group have advised the following in relation to the former St. Michael's Unit. In conjunction with acute services, HSE Estates are undertaking refurbishment of this Unit to make it appropriate for delivery of inpatient acute medical/surgical care within the demands of the service created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is to ensure it complies with the necessary standards to provide such care and to address the additional capacity needs of South Tipperary General Hospital in meeting their requirements for COVID-19.

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

Yours sincerely,

David Heffernan

**David Heffernan,
Head of Mental Health Services,
South East Community Healthcare**