27th January 2021

Mr. Alan Kelly TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 3148/21
To ask the Minister for Health her views on whether her statement when she met local mental health groups in Clonmel, County Tipperary in August 2020, that Kilkenny DOP was delivering impeccable service with facilities and procedures of an incredibly high standards after recent investment was compromised by the publication of the European Committee CPT report 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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 Department of Psychiatry Kilkenny has in the last 3 years improved significantly in their rates of compliance with the Mental Health Act 2001. The work of the Quality Patient Safety Committee and Compliance Officer in Department of Psychiatry has increased from 53% compliance to 73% in 2019 and 94% in 2020.

The HSE has spent €1.2m in 2019/2020 on anti-ligature and refurbishment works in the Department of Psychiatry; to upgrade facilities for service users.

The visit by the European Committee CPT report 2020 was held in 2019 and as you can see from the above the MHC Inspections following this visit has found compliance of 94% since this visit. However, there is always room for improvement within the service and the Department of Psychiatry continue to strive through multi-disciplinary involvement to provide a quality service to all service users who avail of this service; and constantly aim to achieve 100% compliance.

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
Head of Mental Health Services, South East Community Healthcare