

Office of Head of Service – Older People's Services

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12th March, 2021

Ms. Susan Callaghan
Older Peoples Services
Oversight and Planning Unit
Department of Health
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ Ref:12849/21 – St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Unit, Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Dear Ms. Callaghan,

I refer to your email dated March 4th, 2021 regarding representation from Deputy Louise O'Reilly in respect of St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Unit, Castlebar, Co. Mayo and due for response by 24th march, 2021.

I can confirm that due to a Covid 19 outbreak in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar, St Joseph's Rehabilitation unit was closed to admissions and staff redeployed to other parts of the hospital to ensure safe staffing levels could be maintained for both long stay residents and rehabilitation patients with the challenged staffing levels further to the Outbreak .

As from Wednesday 3rd March, 2021 admissions recommenced to St Joseph's Rehabilitation Unit. A maximum of 10 admissions will be accepted initially and this will be reviewed in 8 weeks' time. This level of rehab bed availability has, to date, been more than adequate for the referral level from Mayo University Hospital It is envisaged that St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Unit, which comprises of 6 en-suite wards, each of 6 beds, in a confined space will have a maximum bed capacity of 19 beds for the foreseeable future due to current Infection Protection and Control Guidelines

I trust this response has clarified the matter you have raised in this instance.

Yours Sincerely,



Siobhan O'Sullivan
General Manager
Older People's Services
Health Service Executive
Community Healthcare West