



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1
(An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach)
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5th November 2021

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 53315/21

“To ask the Minister for Health when respite services for adults with special needs will resume to full capacity in Inishowen, County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Doherty

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 the following outlines the position:

Currently, a number of service users are availing of respite beds in Riverwalk House, Carrdonagh on a full time basis and there is no additional availability there at present. Alternative residential accommodation is actively being sought for these service users to allow for Riverwalk to re-open for respite for other service users and their families. Disability Services are working with HSE Property Management and Estates departments to procure alternative housing for these residents. Due to limited housing supply in the Inishowen area this has proven difficult with a number of landlords/owners withdrawing from options that were being progressed. Donegal County Council have been unable to provide alternative housing to meet the needs of the service users currently in Riverwalk. The provision of alternative housing for the service users concerned is a priority for Donegal Disability Services and a solution to the housing requirement is now being progressed.

Ballymacool Respite House, Letterkenny, is the alternative location for priority respite requests from the Inishowen area. Additional home support packages are also available to families who require support and these are reviewed and modified as required.

Donegal Disability Services wishes to sincerely apologise to the service users and their families for the impact that this situation is having on them and to assure you and them that every effort is being made to find a satisfactory outcome for everyone involved.

I trust that this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CHO1
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