



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL  
**CORCAIGH CIARRAI**  
**CORK KERRY**  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach | Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
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**Office of Mental Health Services | Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

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10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 58771/21**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the dimensions of each resident bedroom in a facility in Midleton, County Cork; and the number of resident bathrooms in the facility.”**

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.

Please find table hereunder which contains the information requested in relation to the dimensions of resident bedrooms in the Owenacurra Centre and the number of resident bathrooms in the facility. I note that you have previously been furnished with similar information in relation to a number of other mental health facilities across Cork Mental Health Services. For this reason, I wish to stress that the issues raised by our Regulator, the Mental Health Commission, in relation to bedroom sizes being too small for residents, are not the only deficits in this building.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare wish to emphasise that safety is central to the provision of a quality mental health service. The original plan for the Owenacurra Centre was to refurbish the building so as to bring it to a standard that allows for the provision of care and recovery which a modern service should provide and one that matches the care being provided there. However, as we moved to the advanced planning phase for the centre, serious concerns emerged that any level of refurbishment would not bring the building up to the standards required and neither would it be regarded as fit for purpose by our Regulator.

The HSE recognizes the interdependencies of risks, e.g. the relative safety of the service user and staff is dependent on the safety of the environment in which care is delivered. Advice from building experts and our HSE estates function, informed the HSE in its difficult decision to close the centre, given the unacceptable deficiencies in the existing accommodation and the investment of significant funding into a building which would still not bring the unit up to an acceptable accommodation standard for residents.

We sincerely regret the fact that the centre needs to close, and in particular we acknowledge and regret the disruption for the 18 residents. The safety and wellbeing of residents is our utmost priority and concern. We understand that the Owenacurra Centre has been their home, and we will do everything to make sure that their move to a new home is as easy and as smooth as possible.



Owenacurra, Midleton	Bedroom size (m)2	Bedroom area m2	Ensuite Y/N
Large single Bedroom 1	6 X 4	24	Y
Large Single Bedroom 2	6 X 4	24	Y
Large single Bedroom 3	6 X 4	24	Y
Large single Bedroom 4	6 X 4	24	Y
Single Bed 1	2.9 x 4.4	12.76	Y
Single bed 2	2.9 x 4.4	12.76	Y
Single Bed 3	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 4	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single Bed 5	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 6	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single Bed 7	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 8	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single Bed 9	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 10	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 11	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 12	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single Bed 13	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 14	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single Bed 15	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single bed 16	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N
Single Bed 17	2.9 X 2.58	7.48	N

The total number of shared bedrooms in the centre 2.

I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,




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Kevin Morrison,  
A/Head of Mental Health Services  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare