



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse  
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Mid-West Mental Health Services  
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Tel: 061 461435/461313

**Deputy Violet Anne Wynne**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare Street**  
**Dublin 3**  
**D02 XR20**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**PQ Ref 46439/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the proposed closure of the HSE building Prague House, Ennistymon as it has been deemed condemned; if his attention has been further drawn to the report condemning the building; if so, if he will relay this information; and if a copy of this report will be made available to the staff.**

**PQ Ref 46441/21- To ask the Minister for Health the reason Prague House was shut down with no consultation with the community, the relevant trade union and the elected representatives in County Clare; and if there is a contingency plan to replace this service in view of the under-resourced mental health service in the county**

**PQ Ref 46440/21- To ask the Minister for Health if the decision to close Prague House followed protocol of notice given the staff were notified on 20 July 2021 that they would be relocated effective immediately; the recommended notice for a closure and relocation of a HSE building or service normally; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

Thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to Prague House and your interest in developments in our Mental Health Services.

Prague House has operated as mental health supported accommodation in Ennistymon for almost 30 years. During this time it has successfully offered supported accommodation for people with complex mental health difficulties with the support of supervisory staff. Latterly the need for this level of supported mental health accommodation in this region has reduced. The reasons for this are multi-faceted. The focus of Mental Health Services has changed to a recovery-oriented, person-centred delivery model. In terms of housing supports we now aim to offer supports in people's own homes as far as possible. This is in keeping with the Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities which encompasses those with mental health support needs. The HSE is working towards moving away from the provision of accommodation, and towards the provision of the supports and care that our service users require to live in their

own homes and communities. To this end, further HSE owned properties are not needed by services. For the past 19 months there has only been one resident residing in Prague House.

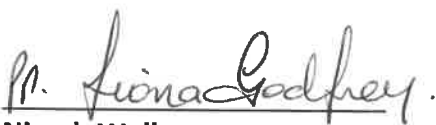
The building itself is over 100 years old and is in need of substantial works. The most recent property survey conducted in 2019 indicated that the building is “showing signs of dampness, damage and deterioration.....moisture is penetrating the property as well as issues of condensation and dampness”. The report goes on to identify the “significant issues” that arise in relation to moisture penetration, particularly as it pertains to damage to walls, ceiling and floors. A recommendation of “full modernisation” of the property was made. There is no issue with sharing this report with the two staff in question and this will be affected through the relevant line manager

Given the change in focus of Mental Health Services to more recovery orientated, person centred service provision, the reduced demand for supported accommodation services and the condition of the building, the HSE has decided to close Prague House. This decision was not taken lightly and took into consideration the needs of the remaining resident, the needs of our population and the needs of the staff.

Engagement with staff in relation to the closure of the facility commenced in November 2020 and is on-going. An awareness of the need to close the centre existed prior to this more formal communication. Staff had been aware of the plans to close the facility, once suitable alternative accommodation was found for the remaining resident. This is now complete and the person in question moved in July 2021 to an alternative, more suitable home within Clare. They now reside with others who are known to them, have the supports they require and are happy with their new accommodation.

I trust this answers all of your queries

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Niamh Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Niamh Wallace**  
**Head of Service,**  
**Mid West Mental Health Services**