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COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

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12th October 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 46734/21 Owenacurra Centre

“To ask the Minister for Health the status of the Owenacurra Centre, Midleton, County Cork”.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The Owenacurra Centre is a Mental Health Services continuing care unit in Midleton Co. Cork. It is registered with the Mental Health Commission to provide a service for 24 people for Psychiatry of Later Life, continuing mental health care, and mental health rehabilitation. There are currently 18 people resident in the Centre.

The original plan for the Owenacurra Centre was to refurbish. However, once planning work for this refurbishment began, and based on commissioned reports, it was established that refurbishment would effectively mean demolishing the building, as a full refurbishment in itself would not guarantee that the building would meet building requirements or be regarded as fit for purpose. The difficult but necessary decision to close the unit was then made in consultation with our Estates colleagues.

The service continues to mitigate the risks associated with the current building.

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. Whilst some residents will be ready to move from the centre shortly, our priority is to make sure that we identify the most suitable placement for every resident based on their assessed needs, will and preferences. The process of finding the most appropriate alternative placements for all residents of the Owenacurra Centre will continue for several more months, beyond October 31st, to achieve our aim of finding the most appropriate placements possible and minimise disruption for residents. There is no plan to reduce staffing levels during in this process.



I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,



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