

19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 18092/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the residents of a centre (details supplied) were chosen to move to another centre for infection and control purposes during the pandemic while residents of wards in St. Stephen's Hospital were not moved and continued to share dorm-style rooms with up to three other residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details supplied: Millfield House, Blackpool; Garnish House, Cork**

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.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the risk was identified that residents in Millfield House, a high support hostel were sharing small multi-occupancy rooms and every effort was made to source more suitable, safer accommodation from an Infection, Prevention and Control perspective. Garnish house was sourced which allowed single room occupancy for all Millfield House residents and also single rooms for a number of residents from other community residences.

The current occupancy in St Stephen's Hospital is significantly lower than the registered numbers and this allowed many patients to have single rooms and allowed reduced occupancy in larger rooms during the pandemic.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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**Mr Kevin Morrison**  
**A/Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**