

31st January, 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2,

PQ ref 1414/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the remaining works that are needed to be carried out to bring the Owencurra Centre, Middleton premises up to an acceptable fire safety standard; the reasons these works have not been completed to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

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.

There have been a number of fire safety improvement works carried out in the Owenacurra Centre. The works undertaken were selected based on addressing risk items while also taking into consideration that the Unit remains occupied by residents. Following a review of the overall works required, it has been determined that the remaining works are major, would require significant capital investment and require the building to be vacated in order to undertake the works. In addition, if these works were undertaken, the building as a residential centre would not meet current best practice guidelines for residential facilities.

Please note, the building's fire safety systems are serviced and monitored in accordance with the applicable Irish Standards. I can assure you the safety and wellbeing of residents remains our outmost priority.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,



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