



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Caipiteal agus Eastáit**  
Ospidéal Sir Patrick Dun, Sráid na Canálach Móire  
Íocht.  
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 P667  
T: 01-6424747

**Office of the National Director Capital & Estates**  
Sir Patrick Dun's, Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2

Ms Roisin Shortall, TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**PQ 29152/22\* To ask the Minister for Health the plans for buildings (details supplied) in County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall – Details Supplied - St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, Co. Dublin – large complex of protected structures at attractive coastal location in relatively good condition, including new National Forensic Mental Health Services Hospital within the campus boundary – agreement with Fingal County Council is that buildings are “mothballed” for future use, however some buildings eg. former “Childrens” unit nearest the coast have been bricked up in recent months, going against the moth-balling agreement – previous and current plans proposed/ considered including educational use (mental health educational academy in partnership with new NFMHS); administrative use (e.g. transfer for HSE administration from leased buildings to renovated St. Ita's block, with planning permission granted to date for administration staff from Coolock Health Centre, Cromcastle Road to move there, and also possibly relocation from leased buildings at Balheary, Swords); re-use of hospital buildings for social and affordable housing (eg. recently occupied cottages along Portrane Avenue for council social housing use, and use of other buildings for Ukrainian refugees); provision of psychiatric care of the elderly and community nursing unit; community & recreational use (maintenance of public walking trails, restoration of 17th Century walled gardens); environmental (woodland management plan and biodiversity protection actions); health services (primary care centre and community mental health teams)**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 buildings on the campus at St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, are protected structures of significant historical interest. These are largely not suitable for the provision of modern healthcare services. The HSE have carried out a number of evaluations to date, to identify suitable uses for these historical buildings. Where it has been possible for the HSE to identify suitable alternate uses for these properties, considerable investment will be required. Some of the potential uses identified to date include:

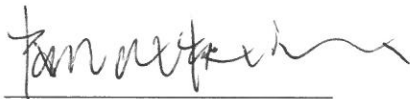
1. Refurbishment of one of the large three storey blocks, (Tayleur House), for offices, training, a production kitchen and staff canteen;
2. Part refurbishment of the laundry building for ongoing management of COVID-19 consumables;
3. Refurbishment of the external environs of the onsite maintenance department;
4. Light refurbishment of the larger three storey block, as a storage area for files.

The reference to securing of the windows in the former “Children’s” unit is noted. This action was taken to protect the structure from anti-social behaviour and vandalism, until the future use of the building is determined. This action is in line with the moth-balling agreement and all protective works are capable of being removed without damage to the overall integrity of the structure.

As you will be aware, the HSE was asked to undertake a review of vacant properties within its portfolio to determine suitable options for use as accommodation to house Ukrainian nationals arriving in Ireland, in the short or medium to longer term. The buildings on the campus at St. Ita’s are among those identified. This information has been conveyed to the Department of Health, and is under consideration at present.

I can also confirm that engagement is ongoing between the HSE, the Land Development Agency and Fingal County Council, in relation to the future use and potential re-purposing of the vacant protected buildings at St. Ita’s. This engagement involves consideration of the approach to the overall development of the campus in Portrane.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul de Freine', written over a horizontal line.

**Paul de Freine**  
**National Director,**  
**Capital & Estates**