

28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 29361/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the way that he can reconcile a recent public statement that residents in the Owenacurra Centre will be accommodated locally while a new 10-bed service is being built given that there are eleven residents remaining who require 24-hour staffed residential provision and, in the event that the Owenacurra Centre is closed while the new service is being built, this will not be available in east Cork; 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.

As you may be aware, the service will provide at least one community residence in Midleton town, for three or four residents. This will have 24-hour staffing and will be available to anyone in need of residential mental health services who's needs are assessed (by a psychiatrist) as being met by a service like this. Some of the remaining residents in the Owenacurra Centre may move to this residence if appropriate for their needs and in line with their wishes and it will also be available for future users of mental health services. Our team at Owenacurra continue to meet with residents and (where appropriate) their families. Each resident is being assessed to ascertain what kind of placement would best meet their needs, and this process is led by consultant psychiatrists.

In addition to the above, I wish to advise that we will provide a new 10-bed rehabilitative residential unit in Midleton town. This service will have 24 hour staffing, and will have a focus on support people to return to their homes and communities. We will appoint a development team which will conduct an options appraisal, and engage with people using mental health services in the area. The Owenacurra site will be among the possible locations considered.

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**