

21st June 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 30697/22

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 484 of 16 November 2021, 1715 of 19 January 2022, 169 of 9 February 2022, 186 of 23 March 2022 and 720 of 17 May 2022, if the clinical directors of the west Cork, north Cork and South Lee HSE mental health catchment areas have agreed with CHO4 HSE senior management to accept out of area respite or long-stay referrals from east Cork into community residences under their clinical governance in the event that Owenacurra Centre is closed (details supplied); if he will provide dates for when any such agreements may have been made; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details Supplied: in recognition of the fact that removing all 24-hour staffed placements from east Cork will involve that service need being met in other parts of Cork where those placements continue to be funded

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 per PQ 24692/22, there are a number of community residences, both in the form of continuing care and high support hostels within 25km radius of the Owenacurra Unit. When a placement in a community residence is being considered, the multidisciplinary team meet the individual and their family members and aim to provide the placement that best suits the individual's needs.

I can again confirm that referrals for all services within Cork Mental Health Services are available to any service user presently residing in Cork. If a services user has a preference to move to another area within Cork, a referral will be considered and assessed by the treating Consultant in the receiving catchment area.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
A/Head of Service
Mental Health Services

