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Ms Neasa Hourigan, TD
Dail Eireann,
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13th July 2022

PQ 32454/22* To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 648 of 24 May 2022, the reasons that fire risks in a centre (details supplied: Owenacurra Centre, Midleton; the Owenacurra Centre) are not being adequately addressed and therefore constitute the main basis cited by the Minister for Mental Health and Older Adults for proceeding with the closure of the service; the authority that determined that this fire risk was unresolvable; if he will provide details of the precise building survey that was carried out in arriving at this conclusion; and the way in which that unit 8, floor 2 in St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire is deemed less problematic in terms of fire risk given the greater difficulty evacuating elderly patients from an upper floor; the way that unit 8 floor 2 is deemed more fit for purpose than that at the centre given its dorm-style rooms, isolated location and lower mental health commission compliance ratings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Neasa Hourigan

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.

The main points of Parliamentary Question 32454/22 have been previously answered in the response which was issued for Parliamentary Question 26243/22 (copy attached for your convenience).

The fire evacuation strategies currently in place for both buildings take fire risk into consideration and are reviewed as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Paul de Freine
National Director,
Capital & Estates