

14th July 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 32456/22

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Questions Nos 1328 of 26 April 2022 and 343 of 19 May 2022, if he will provide the original HSE business case and service rationale for purchasing a centre (details supplied); when this business case and service rationale was established; when this rationale changed to providing emergency accommodation; the way that this change of service rationale occurred; the current service rationale for the centre; the catchment area or other service from which the centre will be taking referrals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: Glenwood House, Carrigaline

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.

I am advised the Glenwood House purchase formed part of the Emergency Planning to provide additional space for HSE residents with single ensuite rooms and a high standard of social space. The premises is well located in a community residential setting and, given its access to services, transport etc., was considered as a replacement for mental health residential type accommodation initially. The property was purchased in 2021 during Covid with the aim to provide accommodation for Mental Health residents under the planning derogation that was in force at the time for HSE under the Covid emergency regulations for the provision of emergency facilities. Given the proposed long-term use of the property, and in order to regularise the proposed use following the lapse of the planning derogation available to HSE under Covid emergency regulations and with due regard to any concerns that planners or members of the public may have about this property the HSE applied for Planning Permission in March 2022 in relation to the premises.

While the rationale for the purchase of Glenwood House was initially taken as an emergency replacement property for Millfield House high support unit (a residential centre located in Cork city and which, pre Covid featured significant levels of multi occupancy), all other arrangements made during the pandemic to mitigate against the spread of Covid in residential settings are currently being reviewed in the context of Infection Prevention Control measures, suitability of environment etc. The HSE wishes to move to a place where Mental Health residents are provided with appropriate, single room ensuite accommodation, thereby replacing accommodation with multi-beds and shared toileting facilities and also addressing social distancing and Covid 19 concerns. The purchase of the Glenwood house property represents a step opportunity to address such shortcomings in the stock of Mental Health residential services in Cork in general.

As planning for the service to be established in Glenwood has proceeded, the service can confirm that the residence will be supported by a new rehabilitation consultant and MDT being appointed to services in Cork. The intention is that once planning permission for use of the accommodation is granted and taking account of any planning requirements, the service will proceed with the identification of the particular service users who may take up residence in the unit, based on consultation with them and their assessed needs. Service users will be included in planning the final refurbishment \ redecoration of the unit. The Service will also resume its engagement with the local Residents Association in the Glenwood area in relation to the introduction of the service to the community.

The rehabilitation Multidisciplinary Team is being appointed to services in Cork and the Glenwood will form part of the services available to the team.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



Mr Hugh Scully
A/General Manager
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

