



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,
Maighéo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

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21st June 2022

Claire Kerrane T.D.
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 32794/22

With regard to Roscommon Co Hospital Psychiatric Unit, and when visiting restrictions might be reduced or lifted.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position;

Currently the Department of Psychiatry, Roscommon has two days allocated to visiting and visiting slots are assigned to patients/families on those days. Every case is considered individually and visits by children are on a case by case basis. As had been the case throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, protocols and procedures surrounding COVID-19 have been under regular review nationally, regionally and locally. Of note the Department of Psychiatry Roscommon has recently come out of a COVID-19 outbreak as identified by the HSE Public Health Department. Staff in this department have worked closely throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with our public health and infection prevention and control colleagues in this regard. Staff of the DOP Roscommon have and do facilitate twice weekly patient/staff meetings to discuss any patient issues/concerns.

The Department of Psychiatry Roscommon unlike the others units in CHO2 is not a purpose built Mental Health facility. Instead it is a combined refurbished surgical and medical ward which was originally built in the late 1920's early 1930's and subsequently the acute Mental Health Services move from St. Patrick's Psychiatric Hospital in Castlerea to its present location in Roscommon University Hospital in early 1992.

This presents the Department of Psychiatry Roscommon with its own unique structural and infection prevention and control issues/difficulties. The Department of Psychiatry is extremely limited in its availability of single room occupancy and on suite toilet facilities and relies heavily instead on communal dormitory style bedroom and toilet facilities.

The Department of Psychiatry Roscommon are currently actively looking for national funding to secure the building of new Acute Adult Mental Health Unit to serve the mental health care needs of the population of GR5/GR6 and POLL3 of the GRMHS and would welcome all supports provided in pursuit of same.

As always the staff and management of the Department of Psychiatry Roscommon strive to meet the care needs of the population to whom it serves whilst being acutely cognisant of its duties, roles and responsibilities in regards to infection prevention and control during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Meehan', written in a cursive style.

Charlie Meehan
Head of Mental Health Services
Community Healthcare West