



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

11th July 2022

PQ Number: 33783/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the reason that external support services have not resumed at the Central Mental Hospital given that hospice services and other drop in services around the country have resumed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

Measures taken to manage the spread of COVID -19 in the Central Mental Hospital resulted in external services either going on-line to provide virtual services or restricting and/or ending their onsite attendance at the hospital. The hospital has experienced a series of outbreaks in units over the past 18 months and the restrictions placed on patients during outbreaks were necessary to prevent the spread of the virus to other patients. The reintroduction of services has taken place on an incremental basis. Some services were introduced as there was a legal requirement to do so, for example, Mental Health Tribunals and Review Boards. A process of introducing other supports services commenced while we were reintroducing routine visits to the hospital. The CMH continues to work with external support services to ensure that appropriate clearance and training has been undertaken by these services to facilitate them to attend this forensic secure site. It should be noted that access to some of these external services continue to be through virtual mediums pending their physical return to the CMH.

Services which have fully resumed include: Irish Advocacy Network, Speech & Language Therapy, Interling Translators, Hairdresser, Tutors to complete Literacy Assessments (as required) and Rehab & Recreation Courses.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services