

6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 15202/22:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if the clinical directors of the West Cork, South Lee and North Cork adult mental health services have agreed with CHO 4 senior HSE management to accept referrals of service-users under the care of the Midleton, Youghal and Cobh Glenville adult mental health teams for long-stay and respite placements in the community residences attached to their local catchment areas into the future; when, in the case of each clinical director, these agreements had been reached; the way that he can reconcile this practice into the future for east Cork service users with the position of the Mental Health Commission and the UK’s Care Quality Commission on the negative outcomes for persons placed out of area specifically with regard to out of area placements in long-stay settings; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There is a number of community residences, both in the form of continuing care and high support hostels within 25km radius of 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.

In the UK, due to difficulties sourcing acute psychiatric in-patient beds, some patients were admitted long distances from their home which on occasion was several hundred kilometres from home. The UK Care Quality commission recommended that these out of area acute admissions should cease.

Within Cork Mental Health Services, the majority of acute admissions are to the acute approved centre associated with the multidisciplinary team of that area. If an acute bed is not available in the local acute approved centre, then the individual is admitted to one of the other acute approved centres and is prioritised for the next available bed in their local area-thus ensuring the continuity of care with their treating team.

Yours sincerely,



**Kevin Morrison,**  
**A/Head of Mental Health Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**