



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
V94 C8DV
Teil: 061 461435/461313

Office of Head of Service
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
St. Joseph's Hospital
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
V94 C8DV
Tel: 061 461435/461313

**Deputy Willie O Dea
2 Glenview Gardens
Farranshane
Limerick**

14/04/2022

Re: PQ REF 16879/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the rationale for the decision by the HSE Mid-West Division to transfer three residents who are suffering with serious mental health issues and residing at (details supplied) from the care of the HSE to a housing association (details supplied); if his attention has been drawn to the fact that each of these residents have been presented with a 29 page contract which has caused confusion; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy O Dea,

Thank You for your recent correspondence regarding the Transfer of HSE Mental Health Residents to a housing association.

The HSE has undertaken a National Transfer of Ownership project to facilitate and support the transfer of low support HSE mental health housing to approved housing bodies in order to provide secure tenancies to existing and future tenants. Tenants are asked to sign tenancy agreements in line with mainstream, legislated tenancy arrangements. Under the initiative each resident has access to a dedicated tenancy support worker to help them with the maintenance of their tenancy. The approved housing bodies have also carried out tenancy induction with the residents to support them in understanding the tenancy arrangements. This is in line with National Housing Policy and is a national programme of work

The key benefit of formalised tenancies for residents is that they are protected under statute with open ended tenancies, a home for life with guaranteed secure tenure and all the associated tenant rights and landlord obligations. Tenants will have greater ownership of their arrangements and privacy, as the model of care is a further remove from an institutional model. The transfer of ownership to approved housing bodies will also see the houses refurbished and maintained to rigorous standards with arrangements in place for prompt responses to maintenance requests. From a fiscal perspective, tenants pay a small additional amount, however, the amount paid is significantly less than market rates and the additional benefits in terms of quality of accommodation significantly outweighs any additional monetary costs. In addition residents avail of state supports such as the Household Benefits Package and other allowances which all go towards enhanced quality of life.

The lead in process to this initiative was long and engaging. Families and Residents were consulted extensively and a thorough process of engagement and information provision was embarked on, in preparation for the transfer of ownership.

It is important to note that this care and treatment of the residents remains with the HSE Mental Health Services. It is only their housing rights and entitlements that are passively changed in this process.

I trust this answers your query and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Niamh Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Niamh Wallace
Head of Service,
Mid West Mental Health Services