

19th May 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 22724/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if the residents of a centre (details supplied) have been transferred from single rooms to shared rooms in other facilities over the past 12 months; if so, the number of former residents and the number of persons that they are now sharing with; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details Supplied: Owenacurra Centre

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.

The original plan for the Owenacurra Centre Approved Centre was to refurbish the building so as to bring it to a standard that allows for the provision of care and recovery which a modern service should provide and one that matches the care being provided there. However, once planning work for this refurbishment began, and based on commissioned reports, it was established that refurbishment would effectively mean demolishing the building, as a full refurbishment in itself would not guarantee that the building would meet building requirements or be regarded as fit for purpose.

The difficult but necessary decision to close the unit was made in consultation with our Estates colleagues given the unacceptable deficiencies in the accommodation and the investment of significant funding into a building which would still not bring the unit up to an acceptable accommodation standard for residents.

Consultations with families and meetings with the remaining residents continue. Residents are transferring to the most appropriate assessed setting that will meet their needs, and with their expressed preference to the forefront in any such decision. Assessments with residents have been completed and consultation with families remains ongoing while residents have a mandated care plan under the care of a Consultant Psychiatrist and the MDT.

With regard to resident's that have transferred to their new homes, I can confirm that six have moved to single room accommodation and one has been moved to a shared room in a nursing home with one other resident. One former resident has been discharged home from Mental Health Services residential care. These decisions have been made based on the assessed needs and will and preference of the residents.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
A/Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare