

9th June 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 24691/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the length of time that the HSE plans to continue its use of Garnish House, Cork as a mental health facility; if Garnish House has planning permission for use as a mental health facility for as long as it has been in operation and into the future; 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.

Our colleagues in HSE Estates will follow up directly with you on the following part of your question **“if Garnish House has planning permission for use as a mental health facility for as long as it has been in operation and into the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.**

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the risk was identified that residents in a high support hostel were sharing small multi-occupancy rooms and every effort was made to source more suitable, safer accommodation from an Infection, Prevention and Control perspective. Alternative accommodation was sourced which facilitated single room occupancy for all residents.

No final decision has been made by the HSE in relation to the termination of this contract. The provision of community residence accommodation and its infection prevention and control measures remain a priority for the service, and in that context the community residences within CKCH continue to be evaluated.

I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



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