



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

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

29th November 2022

**PQ Number: 55417/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the definition of 'continuing care' mental health services, with particular reference to staff client ratios; if he will identify in each CHO the name and location of mental health residential services that are specifically designed as 'continuing care', excluding other forms of residential services such as 'high support hostels'; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Neasa Hourigan**

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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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Following clarification from your office on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the below is a short description outlining the definition of a Continuing Care Unit as detailed in the HSE Mental Health Directory.

*This is an in-patient facility that provides care for service users who have long-term enduring mental illness. This unit is commonly used to care for elderly patients suffering from a mental illness for the first time, including dementia and severe dementia.*

Appendix 1 attached provides information on HSE Mental Health services that are defined as 'continuing care' facilities in each CHO area.

**Please note:**

1. There are no continuing care services in Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare (CHO7).
2. This information has been validated by each CHO area and is correct at point in time.



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3. It must be noted that the level of staff may vary per unit, patient to staff ratios depending on the level of acuity and unit specification.
4. Mount Alvernia, Newberry in Mallow (as referred to in your email) is a Designated Centre for Older Persons registered with HIQA, and is not a mental health 'continuing care' service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**