

28<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 56478/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the HSE's plans with regard to its use of Millfield House, County Cork; the way in which the HSE will ensure that former residents who move back there from Garnish House, as recently indicated by the HSE, will not endure further uncertainty regarding their placement there given the known impact of such uncertainty on mental health; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cork Kerry Management along with relevant Clinical Directors formed a Mental Health Services Covid-19 steering group to discuss issues as they arise during the outbreak of the pandemic. One of the many matters discussed was the need for single room accommodation for residents in Millfield House, a high support hostel. Residents were sharing small multi-occupancy rooms and every effort was made to source more suitable, safer accommodation from an Infection, Prevention and Control perspective. Garnish house was sourced which allowed single room occupancy for all Millfield House residents and also single rooms for a number of residents from other community residences.

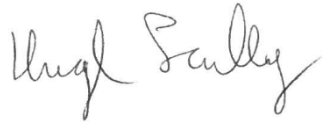
The service move has always been identified as not being permanent and residents were aware of this from the outset. Furthermore the nature of high support service is not the same as continuing care, as the aim of the service user in conjunction with the clinical team, is to make plans for more independent living in the next phase of on-going recovery. Even if a service user has an extended stay in this type of service, at no stage would it be that their individual agreed plan developed in conjunction with their supporting clinical team, is to remain in the High Support service indefinitely.

Subsequent to receiving information regarding the transfer of the service by end of Quarter 1 2023, all service users residing in Garnish House were met with by the Consultant Psychiatrist and nursing staff. At this meeting they were informed that the current service being provided in Garnish House will be transferring and that suitable alternative placements will be sought for each resident. Following this, family engagement was initiated via telephone calls to arrange face to face meetings with residents and their families and provide them with an update regarding the planned transfer of the service from Garnish House.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are in the process of refurbishing Millfield House in Blackpool with a view to re-establishing a rehabilitative community residence by end of Q1 2023. This will be a 24 hour staffed unit whose focus will be on providing an active rehabilitation programme for people with mental health illness. The objective of this programme is to move towards less supported community accommodation and is informed by national policies.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



**Mr. Hugh Scully**  
**A/General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**