

29<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 57001/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of residents in the Owenacurra Centre, Midleton on 1 January 2021; the facilities that each of those residents from that date onwards have moved to since, including the number of residents who may have moved to the same facility; the number of residents who have moved to single rooms; the number of residents who have moved to shared rooms in other facilities; the number of other residents in those shared rooms in each case; 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.

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.

In June 2021, the difficult but necessary decision to close the unit was made in consultation with our HSE 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.

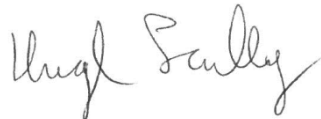
With regard to your queries, I can confirm that 19 service users resided in Owenacurra Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. I can also confirm that out of these 19 residents, 13 residents have already moved from the Owenacurra Centre to their new homes. Their new homes include nursing homes and mental health community residences, and these new placements fit each person’s individual assessed needs. Due to the small numbers of placements, the HSE cannot comment on the relocation of individual patients when to do so might reveal information, breaching the ethical requirement on us to observe our duty of confidentiality. HSE staff have followed up with the former residents, they continue to receive support according to their assessed need in a more appropriate environment. I can also confirm that in two instances, two service users were moved to the same facilities (i.e. 2 service users in each of 2 facilities).

In relation to former residents room occupancy, I can confirm that out of the 13 transferred or discharged, one person was discharged home, 11 people are currently residing in nursing home or mental health community residences in a single room and 1 person is currently residing in a shared room. This resident is sharing a 2 bed dorm with 1 other resident.

For the remaining residents of Owenacurra Centre, the supports being provided as they move through what is a difficult process for them will continue, as will the engagement with themselves and their families. Our priority now is to work with the remaining residents to identify new homes for them, which will meet their needs as assessed by medical experts, as well as their own will and preference.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



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