



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

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

14th December 2022

PQ Number: 59847/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to proposals put forward by an association (details supplied) that subsidised nursing staff accommodation should be provided at a location as well as at other possible locations, to help address the serious issues with recruitment of Mental Health Nurses; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Roisin Shortall.

Details Supplied:

Psychiatric Nurses Association. St. Ita's Hospital Campus, Portrane, Co. Dublin;

**sixty beds remain unopened at the new National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) in Portrane, Co Dublin, because of a lack of staff to open all 170 beds and services there;*

**there are already 25 vacancies in the recently opened forensic mental health service, Portrane; *currently there is also 85 nursing vacancies in St Joseph's Mental Health Intellectual Disability Services, also at Portrane;*

**ideally re-utilising the currently vacant historical buildings*

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

The Central Mental Hospital relocated from Dundrum to Portrane on the 13th November 2022. It was always the plan to open the new hospital on a phased basis with 110 beds opening initially in Portrane. This objective has been achieved. The expansion of the service will continue on a phased basis with the hospital increasing capacity to 130 beds six months after relocation. This is due to take place Q2/Q3 2023. The third phase of the development is to open the Intensive Care and Rehabilitation Unit (ICRU), a 30 bedded unit and this is planned for end of 2023. There are interdependencies in the implementation of these expansion phases and one aspect is the availability of appropriate numbers of staff across a range of disciplines. This includes nursing staff.



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The National Forensic Mental Health Service has been actively recruiting staff across all disciplines and professions including nursing. Some suitable candidates were unwilling to take up posts until the relocation of the hospital from Dundrum to Portrane was complete. Accommodation is one element of attracting staff to the new Service and we are also focusing on other elements including Staff training, professional development and promotional opportunities.

This matter is kept under review and the NFMHS are proactively working with the wider communities of Portrane/ Donabate in order to access accommodation for staff which will help to increase the staffing complement to meet the needs of the NFMHS in the coming years.

Currently there are no plans to provide Nursing accommodation on site in Portrane.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services