

18th October 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 50679/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the way in which unit 3, St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire is acceptable as an alternative placement for Owenacurra Centre residents given the scale of concerns raised by the Mental Health Commission concerning this facility in recent inspection reports, along with its remote location, poor transport links and shared rooms; 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 HSE cannot for the purpose of protecting the identities and circumstances of residents, discuss matters pertaining to resident's transfers to centres.

Unit 3 St Stephens is a registered centre with the MHC with conditions attached to its registration, relating to admission to the unit.

Unit 3 St Stephens, along with other approved centres, has been the subject of service improvement in the context of issues raised by the Mental Health Commission and the HSE remains committed to improving the residents experience of the centre.

Ultimately the HSE wishes to replace or significantly refurbish all approved centre's accommodation in Cork in line with Regulations and St Stephens is a priority proposed development to this end.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



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