

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 42635/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the basis on which Unit 3, St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire has been identified by the HSE as a suitable alternative facility for a centre (details supplied) for residents given the series of major concerns raised by the Mental Health Commission in recent inspection reports in respect of the staff culture, the premises and in addition, given the isolated nature of the setting compared with the centre and the dorm-style rooms in Unit 3; if CHO 4 mental health service management informed the Mental Health Commission that it was offering Unit 3 as an alternative facility to the centre residents prior to doing so; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details Supplied: Owenacurra Centre**

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.

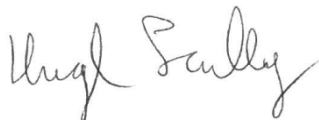
The HSE cannot for the purpose of protecting the identities and circumstances of residents, discuss matters pertaining to resident's transfers to centres.

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.

Kind Regards,



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