

22nd September

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 42636/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of residents of a centre (details supplied) who have already transferred to other facilities who were able to avail of a trial placement before making a final move from the centre in each case without identifying the resident, the duration of the trial period and whether any residents returned to the centre from a trial placement.”

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.

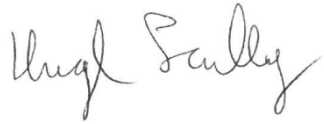
In June 2021, the HSE notified the Department of Health of its decision to close the Owenacurra Centre, Midleton. The current building is not fit for purpose and cannot be brought to the standard required. The HSE’s focus is on the impact of this closure on residents and their families. The multi-disciplinary team continue to meet with residents and their families to discuss their options to meet their assessed needs.

A Steering Group was appointed to plan and oversee the closure of the Centre our priority is to ensure that we identify the most suitable placement for every resident based on their assessed needs, will and preferences. Residents continue to move on a phased basis and work with each resident is ongoing.

All transfer placements are informed by clinical needs assessments (completed by the multidisciplinary team) and taking into consideration the will and preference of the resident. I have been advised residents and their families were offered meetings in relation to potential transfers unless stipulated by families not to be contacted. Residents and their families would have been offered readmission to Owenacurra if the transfer was deemed unsuccessful. Of note there have been no unsuccessful transfers and no resident was readmitted to the Owenacurra Centre to date .All residents transferred were /are being supported and monitored by members of the multi-disciplinary team.

Please note, 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. The safety and wellbeing of current and former residents of Owenacurra remains our utmost priority and concern at this time.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Scully". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

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

