

15<sup>th</sup> September

Deputy Sean Sherlock  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 43274/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if an alternative residence has been found to replace a centre (details supplied) in County Cork”**

**Details supplied: Owenacurra in Midleton County Cork that is located within the town of Midleton or within the east Cork region.**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare remain committed to providing quality mental health services for the population of East Cork and the wider region. We strive to support the principle of maintaining people in their own homes and communities where possible, and bringing the specialist services required as close to the homes and communities as possible.

We had provided assurances that we will explore options to relocate and reinstate the day service in the town as soon as possible. The Day Centre has moved to a new location and is operating there successfully. The longer term plan is to provide this service at the redeveloped Midleton Community Hospital site.

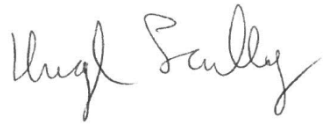
I wish to advise that we will provide a new 10-bed rehabilitative residential unit in Midleton town. This service will have 24 hour staffing, and will have a focus on supporting people to return to their homes and communities. We will appoint a development team which will conduct an options appraisal, and engage with people using mental health services in the area. The Owenacurra site will be among the possible locations considered.

In addition to the above, we will also provide at least one community residence in Midleton town, for three or four residents. This may facilitate any current resident of Owenacurra, or any service user in East Cork, that may be suitable for this facility. The model for this service would be rehabilitation focussed also, with healthcare professional staff supporting the residents. This will have 24-hour staffing and will be available to anyone in need of residential mental health services who's needs are assessed (by a psychiatrist) as being met by a service like this.

Our plan for residential mental health services in the East Cork area will ultimately deliver a much better service for people using our services now, and into the future and in line with Government policy.

I trust the above clarified the queries raised.

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**