

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 43875/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if HSE management discussed proposals to close a centre (details supplied) at any stage in the five years prior to June 2021 when its closure was announced; if so, if he will provide details of those discussions; and if he will make a statement on the matter..”**

**Details supplied: the Owenacurra Centre, Midleton**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

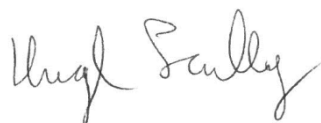
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In 2019, Mental Health Services were advancing plans to refurbish the Owenacurra Centre.

The centre is a pre-fabricated building from the 1970s which had a life expectancy of 40 years. At the time of the correspondence in 2019, the building was well past its 40-year life expectancy and it was prudent to consider the future of the building and the site. In considering that future, as a matter of completeness, options were listed, including refurbishment and sale. However, plans to sell the site or the building were never discussed or advanced because the decision was taken to refurbish it. Unfortunately, as these refurbishment plans were developed, expert reports revealed that this planned refurbishment would not be enough to bring the unit up to an acceptable accommodation standard in a cost efficient way.

I trust the above clarified the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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