

27th September 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 44927/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of residents of a centre (details supplied) who have been transferred to shared rooms in other facilities since June 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter..”

Detail supplied: Owenacurra Centre residents

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 original plan for the Owenacurra Centre Approved Centre was to refurbish the building so as to bring it to a standard that allows for the provision of care and recovery which a modern service should provide and one that matches the care being provided there. However, once planning work for this refurbishment began, and based on commissioned reports, it was established that refurbishment would effectively mean demolishing the building, as a full refurbishment in itself would not guarantee that the building would meet building requirements or be regarded as fit for purpose.

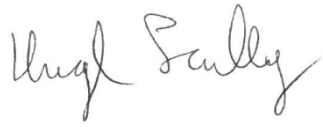
The difficult but necessary decision to close the unit was made in consultation with our Estates colleagues given the unacceptable deficiencies in the accommodation and the investment of significant funding into a building which would still not bring the unit up to an acceptable accommodation standard for residents.

Consultations with families and meetings with the remaining residents continue. Residents are transferring to the most appropriate assessed setting that will meet their needs, and with their expressed preference to the forefront in any such decision. Assessments with residents have been completed and consultation with families remains ongoing while residents have a mandated care plan under the care of a Consultant Psychiatrist and the MDT.

With regard to resident's that have transferred to their new homes, I can confirm that nine have moved to single room accommodation and one has been placed in shared accommodation. One former resident has been discharged from Mental Health Services residential care. These decisions have been made based on the assessed needs and will of preference of the residents. All residents transferred were /are being supported and monitored by members of the multi-disciplinary team.

I trust the above clarified the queries raised.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "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