

28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 45907/22**

**"To ask the Minister for Health if he will retain the 18-bed capacity at the centre for mental health care in Bantry and reject the recommendation of the Mental Health Commission to reduce the capacity to 11 beds; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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

The Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery (CMHCR), Bantry was opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1996. CMHCR has been registered as an Approved Centre since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006. The current period of registration commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and the current maximum occupancy of the Approved Centre is 18 residents and patients. CMHCR Bantry is inspected on an annual basis by the Mental Health Commission.

On 2nd Aug 2022, the Mental Health Commission wrote to the service stating its proposal to attach a condition to the registration of the Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery Bantry which would reduce their bed capacity from 18 to 11.

The only avenue to appeal against the MHC's decision, is via the District Court and I can confirm that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) have lodged this appeal in the District Court. As this matter is before the courts, we cannot say anything further. However, we will continue to engage with the Mental Health Commission in a positive manner.

I wish to ensure you that CKCH are absolutely committed to maintaining and continuing a quality service at the Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery in Bantry.

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**

