

10th October, 2022

Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 47339/22 Bantry acute unit

“To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has carried out a critical safety audit in the Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery in Bantry General Hospital; if anti-ligature safety measures have been introduced; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Ward,

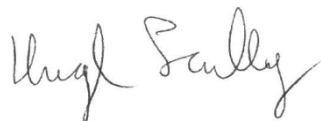
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

A level 1 Health & Safety audit was undertaken in the Centre for Mental Health Care & Recovery as part of our Health & Safety processes earlier this year

A ligature audit was also undertaken this year and a plan for remedial works was submitted on 6th September 2022 has been approved and signed off on by Senior HSE Managers. A project team is in place to oversee the works which are anticipated to be completed by the end of Q1 2023. As an immediate mitigating measure, the service has requested the installation of an access controlled intercom system from the ground floor area activated by staff. This will allow patient access to the stairwell only under staff supervision. Access to the stairs from the ward remains via swipe monitored access from staff.

The service is committed to progress and expedite solutions to ensure works are undertaken in a solution focussed timely fashion.

Kind Regards,



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