

12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Mark Ward  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 47384/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the correspondence and instructions that the HSE received from the Mental Health Commission regarding the centre for mental health care and recovery in Bantry General Hospital prior to the decision by the Commission to recommend the closure of seven beds in the facility; 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.

In July 2022 the Inspector of Mental Health services had identified concerns arising from the annual regulatory inspection of the Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery Bantry (CMHCR Bantry).

The Commission first wrote to the service in relation to the proposed condition on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. In its letter, the Commission set out its intention to attach a condition to the registration of the Centre of Mental Health Care and Recovery Bantry which outlines that the approved centre shall not exceed 11 residents at any one time due to the non-compliance with Regulation 22: Premises and the failure to address this. In particular, the inspection found that there was a lack of communal space for residents and separately that bedrooms did not provide residents with adequate personal space and privacy. The Commission invited a response from the service within 21 days of this correspondence.

Within the response to the Mental Health Commission dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 the service stated its view that the proposed condition would adversely impact the patient population of West Cork and that it considered the suggested reduction in beds capacity from 18 to 11 to be unsafe and risk-increasing for this vulnerable patient population.

It was also noted that the service was engaged with HSE Estates at local level to review any possible re-configuration of the first floor bedroom accommodation and to explore additional options to centralise non patient specific processes. This would seek to provide additional communal space on the ward floor while the service makes interim capital submissions and undertakes the necessary service enhancements within the CMCR to support in provision of the optimum therapeutic space.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022 the Director of Regulation, Mental Health Commission wrote to the service to inform them of their decision to attach the condition outlined above and noted that the appeal process for same will need to be made through the District Court. I can confirm that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) have lodged this appeal in the District Court within the specified time

frame. 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.

Kind Regards,



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

