



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta,
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh, T12 XHT4

Office of Mental Health Service
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

Caha House, Business & Technology
Park, Model Farm Road, Cork,
T12 XHT4

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T 021-4868268
E MHSCorkKerry@hse.ie

3rd May 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 18137/23

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 571 of 7 March 2023 and 1155 of 21 March 2023, the current projected extended time-frame for the HSEs use of Garnish House, Cork as a mental health facility; the details of consultation with families of residents on the changes to this arrangement; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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

In early 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Senior Mental Health Management Team along with CKCH Mental Health Clinical Directors formed a Covid-19 Mental Health Services Management Group. The group chaired by the Head of Service MH was formed to identify and mitigate service continuity risks and infection prevention and control concerns for staff, residents and the public as they arose during the peak of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CKCH MHS has significant capital underinvestment across a number of residential sites. The COVID-19 Mental Health Services Management Group identified the requirement for single room accommodation to facilitate infection prevention control across residential services and to provide safe service for residents. At that time, Millfield House, a high support residence in Blackpool, Cork city provided residents with small to medium sized, multi-occupancy bed-rooms. Every effort was urgently made to source single bed room accommodation in the Cork city area to decant from Millfield House and to increase capacity across several sites.

As an interim arrangement, Garnish House, a privately owned guest house was sourced on a short term lease agreement. Garnish House has allowed for single bed room occupancy residential support services to be delivered by HSE staff for the Millfield House residents and also for people who had been sharing bedrooms at other Mental Health provided community residences in Cork. The HSE are working to conclude this interim accommodation lease arrangement as a priority.

Consultations with families and meetings with the residents continue. There has been significant engagement with the residents and with their families, where appropriate, around the needs and plans for the residents. It is open to any family member to participate in such meetings, subject to the consent of their loved ones, and the service always welcomes such involvement.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,

Ms. Julie O' Neill
Interim Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare