



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach  
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10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 19460/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the projected time-frame for the re-opening of Millfield House, Cork to residents with severe and enduring mental health difficulties; the estimated costs associated with renovations planned for Millfield House; 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.

Although the residents and 24/7 staff decanted from the Millfield House, High Support Residence site due to lack of room space in the face of the COVID -19 Pandemic, the building was utilised in a limited way for staff office space and to facilitate day programmes while maintaining social distancing. Working with local Estates the site has been reviewed and a plan is in place to reconfigure the accommodation and the site and to bring the premises up to a modern standard. The property is currently being refurbished for use as a step-down 6-bed mental health residential centre, in line with appropriate IPC standards.

Work to bring Millfield House to the standard needed and expected for a modern residential service is well advanced. The building will be ready to welcome residents in the coming months.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

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