



**Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
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4th October 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 40722/23

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 719 of 17 May 2023, the length of time that the HSE plans to continue its use of a facility (details supplied) as a mental health facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: Garnish House

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.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cork Kerry Management along with relevant Clinical Directors formed a Mental Health Services Covid-19 steering group to discuss issues as they arise during the outbreak of the pandemic. One of the many matters discussed was the need for single room accommodation for residents in Millfield House, a high support hostel. Residents were sharing small multi-occupancy rooms and every effort was made to source more suitable, safer accommodation from an Infection, Prevention and Control perspective. Garnish house was sourced which allowed single room occupancy for all Millfield House residents and also single rooms for a number of residents from other community residences.

Subsequent to receiving information regarding the transfer of the service by end of Quarter 1 2023, all service users residing in Garnish House were met with by the Consultant Psychiatrist and nursing staff. At this meeting they were informed that the current service being provided in Garnish House will be transferring and that suitable alternative placements will be sought for each resident. Following this, family engagement was initiated via telephone calls to arrange face to face meetings with residents and their families and provide them with an update regarding the planned transfer of the service from Garnish House.

It is envisaged that Garnish House will cease operating as a Mental Health Facility before the 31st October 2023.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

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