



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,  
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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21<sup>st</sup> February, 2023

Ms. Neasa Hourigan T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: Parliamentary Questions 6105/23 & 7691/23**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

As with all 24 hour supervised high support community mental health residences there is flow through the service, which is in response to the biopsychosocial needs of each individual. This is outlined in national mental health policy; Sharing the Vision (2020 p54): *community rehabilitation residences depend on a multi-disciplinary team to support and enable the person concerned to move towards independent community living accommodation.*

Examples of client flow in practice are: In supporting the person's recovery journey they may be transferred to a medium support community residence, whilst others may be discharged to independent living.

If, through ongoing MDT assessment, there is evidence that the client's physical needs have outweighed their mental health needs, leading in some cases to an increased risk of further physical deterioration, MDT support is offered collaboratively with the client and their family/chosen advocate in choosing long-term care options. This may include transfer to a community nursing unit or nursing home.

In all aforementioned examples, the client remains under the care of the community mental health service with mental health and recovery needs met on a case by case individual basis using an assertive outreach approach as part of their ICP.

Bed occupancy has recently increased in Erkina House from 9 residents to 10, as the result of a new admission. This resident was admitted on 27th January 2023 to support his/her recovery. As with all residents in supporting their recovery journey, he/she may be transferred to a medium support community residence or discharged to independent living in due course.



The following table outlines the updated figures as per your request (Ref 6105/23)

Date	Number of residents in Erkina House
30/12/2018	16
30/12/2019	16
30/12/2020	12
30/12/2021	12
30/12/2022	9
17/02/2023	10

The HSE has no plans to wind down the service by gradually reducing the provision and awaits the completion of an independent Options Appraisal.

I hope the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation