

1st February 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 1145/23

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 196 of 23 November 2022, the date that "a change in service requirements was identified by CHO4 Mental Health Services" for Glenwood House "necessitating a full refurbishment of the property for future accommodation use as a community residence on a permanent basis" (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: and by which manager(s) was that change in service requirements identified; how a change in service requirements is being referred to in the response given that the original HSE business case for the purchase of Glenwood House, as set out in the HSE's capital plan for that year, was "the creation of 14 bed High Support Mental Health Residential care beds replacing existing unfit for purpose HSE-owned dwelling (Millfield House High Support Hostel)" and given that the majority of Millfield House residents were in longstanding residential care, and given that there was no mention of Glenwood House being used as emergency accommodation in related correspondence between HSE managers at the time

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.

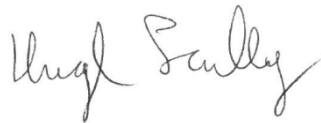
The HSE has long identified the need for significant replacement and upgrade of its Mental Health accommodation across Cork. Auctioneers have been requested, working on our behalf, to bring to our attention any multi-bed properties (i.e. large houses, guest houses, hotels, etc.) in both the Cork City and county regions for review for potential health uses. Following an advert in the Irish Examiner being brought to the attention of HSE, the property known as Glenwood House, Carrigaline (which was a 14 bed Guest House) was purchased by the HSE in the context of Covid 19 as well as the significant shortcomings in the stock of residential services in Cork city and county. The purchase formed part of the Emergency Planning to provide additional space for HSE residents with single ensuite rooms and a high standard of social space. The premises is well located in a community residential setting and, given its access to services, transport, etc. was considered as a replacement for mental health residential type accommodation initially. The property was purchased in 2021 during Covid with the aim to provide accommodation for Mental Health residents under the planning derogation that was in force at the time for HSE under the Covid emergency regulations for the provision of emergency facilities. Given the proposed long-term use of the property, and in order to regularise the proposed use following the lapse of the planning derogation available to HSE under Covid emergency

regulations, the HSE applied for Planning Permission in relation to the premises on the basis of our overall objective to be a compliant organisation with other public services and also with due regard to any concerns that either planners or other members of the public may have about this property.

The rationale for the purchase of Glenwood House was initially taken as an emergency replacement property for Millfield House high support unit (a residential centre located in Cork city and which, pre Covid featured significant levels of multi occupancy. Alternative arrangements are now being made in relation to Millfield House. The HSE wishes to move to a place where Mental Health residents are provided with appropriate, single room ensuite accommodation, thereby replacing accommodation with multi-beds and shared toileting facilities and also addressing social distancing and Covid 19 concerns. The purchase of the Glenwood house property represents a step opportunity to address such shortcomings in the stock of Mental Health residential services in Cork in general.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



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

