

31st January 2023

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 2297/23

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will immediately work with the HSE in CHO4 to put in place a plan to ensure that none of the acute mental health unit beds in Bantry General Hospital are closed.”

PQ ref 3129/23

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will immediately provide the necessary capital funding to retain eighteen beds in the acute mental health unit in Bantry Hospital.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery (CMHCR), Bantry was opened on the 8th January 1996. CMHCR has been registered as an Approved Centre since 1st November 2006. The current period of registration commenced on the 1st March 2020 and the current maximum occupancy of the Approved Centre is 18 residents and patients. CMHCR Bantry is inspected on an annual basis by the Mental Health Commission.

On 2nd August 2022, the Mental Health Commission wrote to the service stating its proposal to attach a condition to the registration of CMHCR Bantry which would reduce the bed capacity at the unit from 18 to 11. The only avenue to appeal against the Commission’s decision is *via* the District Court.

An agreement has subsequently been reached recently with the Mental Health Commission in regard to the number of beds in the Approved Centre. The number of beds at the Centre will be reduced from 18 to 15 while works are ongoing. The investment in the refurbishment of the Centre is estimated at approximately €1.7M and has a targeted completion date of 31st March 2023. Once completed, we will be applying to the Mental Health Commission for re-registration of the three closed beds.

I wish to ensure you that CKCH is absolutely committed to maintaining and continuing a quality service for Mental Health Services in Bantry.

I trust the above clarified the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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

