

20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 11016/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 484 of 16 November 2021, 1715 of 19 January 2022, 169 of 9 February 2022, 186 of 23 March 2022, 720 of 17 May 2022, 1903 of 14 June 2022, 565 of 13 December 2022 and 19 January 2023, if the clinical directors of the west Cork, north Cork and south Lee HSE mental health catchment areas have agreed with CHO 4 HSE senior management to accept out-of-area respite or long-stay referrals from east Cork into community residences under their clinical governance in the event that the Owenacurra Centre is closed; if so, if he will provide the dates for when any such agreements may have been made; the context in which such agreements were made; 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.

At present there are 10 community residences located across North Cork, West Cork, North Lee and South Lee Mental Health Services.

When a placement in a community residence is being considered, the multidisciplinary team will firstly meet the individual and their family members to establish the placement that best suits the individual's needs.

If an appropriate placement is identified at this stage, then the treating Consultant will make the referral to the receiving Consultant of the appropriate community residence. Cases are assessed on a case by case basis. Factors such as clinical appropriateness as well as bed capacity amongst others are taken into account. This process is supported by all of the Clinical Directors.

I can confirm that referrals for all services within Cork Mental Health Services are available to any service user presently residing in Cork. If a services user has a preference to move to another area within Cork, a referral will be considered and assessed by the treating Consultant in the receiving catchment area.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,

*Julie O'Neill*

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

