

20th March 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 11017/23

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the status of the HSE's use of Garnish House, Cork as a mental health facility; the projected timeframe for its continued use; 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.

By way of background, this service was transferred during the Covid pandemic and the use of the temporary location of Garnish House was necessary on the basis of infection prevention. A total of 20 residents were transferred in April - May 2020 from 3 Community Residences including Millfield House in Cork City to Garnish House. There are 15 currently residents currently residing at Garnish House.

The Mental Health Team involved in the provision of the service, have communicated with all the residents of Garnish House and their relatives to advise them that the service will be transferring and to date have maintained a specific communication with the residents on a weekly basis and as necessary as the plan unfolds. Alternative placements include residents returning to a refurbished Millfield House or other community residences.

With regard to Millfield House, HSE Estates embarked on a tender process and a successful contractor has now been identified to complete the refurbishment works. Once the works commence we will be in a better position to establish the end date of completion of the works. We will be keeping residents informed during this time on an ongoing basis.

A Local Implementation Team is in place to oversee the transfer of the service from Garnish House while maintaining ongoing risk management of all services to ensure the safety of all residents and staff.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Kind regards,

Julie O'Neill

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

