



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.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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30th March, 2023

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

Re: Parliamentary Question - 13762/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will identify the placement alternatives for the client group under the care of the Laois/Offaly mental health services who either currently reside at a facility (details supplied), or for whom the facility is their nearest 24-hour staffed facility; the distance from Rathdowney of each of these facilities; if he will provide details on how each of these facilities meet the requirements of the HSE Design for Mental Health Guidelines, by which the facility was recently judged in an architect's report; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Hourigan

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

Mental Health Services in Laois Offaly operate the following High Support Community Residences (24 Hour Staffing).

Community Residence	Distance from Rathdowney	Compliance with HSE Design for Mental Health Guidelines
Erkina House, Rathdowney	N/A	According to an independent architectural assessment in 2022, Erkina House fundamentally does not comply with the guidance contained in Design for Mental Health Housing Design Guidelines Manual.
Grove House, Abbeyleix	18km	An architect's opinion on the level of compliance to the Design for Mental Health Housing Design Guidelines Manual has been sought in respect of Grove House and will be available next month
Birchwood House, Tullamore	57km	Birchwood House has received approval for redevelopment and is at Stage 2 of Planning. The design spec incorporates the requirements of HSE Design for Mental Health Guidelines
Silver Lodge,	57km	An architect's opinion on the level of compliance to the Design for Mental Health Housing Design Guidelines Manual



Tullamore		has been sought in respect of Silver Lodge and will be available next month
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Any new building projects in the Mental Health Estates Strategic Plan will be designed to the requirements of the HSE Design for Mental Health Guidelines.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Broadbank'.

Carole Broadbank
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation