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22nd May 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 21218/23

"To ask the Minister for Health if current security arrangements for Millfield House, Blackpool, are expected to continue indefinitely or for a fixed timeframe; if the security arrangement will also apply to the independent living pods near Millfield House that recently received planning approval from Cork City Council; if so, if the current security costs will increase; 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.

Security commenced in Millfield House 19th May, 2019 and has been in place on a 24/7 basis since this time. The initial security requirement was as a result of frequent and serious anti-social behaviour in the vicinity.

Work to bring Millfield House to the standard needed and expected for a modern residential service is well advanced. The building will be ready to welcome residents in the Summer. Security arrangements will cease once the residents return to their refurbished home.

The planning application in relation pods allows us to consider all possible options in relation to Millfield House. No definite or immediate plans are in place for the placing or use of pods.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

Julie O'Neill

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