



**Cúram Sláinte  
Phobail, Iarthar**  
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,  
Maighéo agus Ros Comáin

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29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Mairead Farrell TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ ref 42204/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if respite and end of life care is currently provided in Áras Mhic Dara, An Cheathrú Rua; if so, the number of respite spaces currently available; if not, when these services were terminated; what is being done with those bed spaces now; what analysis was conducted as the basis for ceasing the services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Farrell

I refer to PQ ref 42204/23 uploaded on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 and due for a response on the 16<sup>th</sup> October regarding the above representation made to the Minister of Health if respite and end of life care is currently provided in Áras Mhic Dara, An Cheathrú Rua; if so, the number of respite spaces currently available; if not, when these services were terminated; what is being done with those bed spaces now; what analysis was conducted as the basis for ceasing the services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. The HSE have been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following outlines the current position.

I wish to confirm subject to a previous review of services that currently long term care is being prioritised in Áras Mhic Dara Community Nursing Unit (CNU) due to the recruitment embargo. Respite Care is available in Merlin Park Community Nursing Unit at present.

I trust this response addresses the matter you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

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Gerard McCormack  
General Manager  
Older Peoples Services  
Community Healthcare West