



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
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20th February 2024

Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 44186/23

“To ask the Minister for Health whether the HSE has examined the possibility of moving (details supplied) to a temporary alternative site in the event of temporary closure due to building works.”

Details supplied: Centre for Mental Health care and Recovery in Bantry

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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 response.

The Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery in Bantry is undergoing substantial building and renovation works and has been temporarily closed since 18th October 2023. These works are an essential part of our commitment to enhancing the facilities and services we provide and to meet our regulatory obligations with the Mental Health Commission. The improvements aim to create a safer, more conducive and supportive environment for mental health care and recovery. Given the extensive requirements including regulatory, legislative, and health and safety considerations, relocating the approved center to another site on a temporary basis was not feasible.

During the temporary closure of CMHCR Bantry, presentations requiring acute admission from West Cork catchment area will be facilitated in other approved centres in the service, primarily.

- Acute Mental Health Unit, CUH
- St Michael's Unit, Mercy Hospital Cork

A “*Single point of contact*” for West Cork Mental Health Service is in place 24/7 to sign-post Mental Health Services and to direct queries to the appropriate clinician.

Initially it was our intention to reopen the Centre on 1st February 2024. Regrettably, we are facing challenges related to the supply chain, specifically in attaining materials crucial for the completion of the ongoing renovation project. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, we must inform you that the Centre's reopening will regrettably be delayed. The project completion date is 31st July, 2024 however we will endeavour to bring this completion date forward to enable an earlier re-opening date.

It had been anticipated that this closure would facilitate the speedier completion of the works however significant issues have been encountered in relation to the sourcing of materials and in particular the windows. The window manufacturers have advised that the first floor windows will be delivered end March 2024/early April 2024 with the balance of the windows two weeks later. We estimate it will be the 3rd to 10th May 2024 before these windows are fitted.

I undertake to advise you when the windows are on site and confirm an installation plan for same. This is very disappointing for us in Cork Kerry Mental Health Services, and we share the disappointment which the

local community will feel. We acknowledged the significant service impact on patients and staff with the temporary closure of the 18 beds. This impact is felt in Bantry, and also in the other Cork Kerry Mental Health Approved Centres.

We will of course seek to have the works completed as soon as possible and we will do everything we can to reopen the Centre for Mental Health Care and Recovery Bantry before the 31st July, 2024.

The existing plan for interim arrangements remains unchanged and I attach a copy for your information. These interim arrangements are ensuring the continued provision of safe and appropriate support during the works and have been working well. This plan will remain in place until we can reopen the centre in its entirety. We look forward to welcoming patients back to an enhanced building that reflects our dedication to providing the highest standard of care.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie O'Neill".

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