



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

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26th April 2024

Mr. Michael Healy Rae, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 14587/24

“To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Details supplied: “Minister there is a group called AL Anon in Kerry who use Caherina house which is run by the HSE however the HSE have not stated that they can no longer use the room on a weekly basis which they have been using for 30 years. Why are the HSE not allowing them to use it anymore?”

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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.

AL Anon have been using a room in Caherina House, Tralee for evening meetings for several years. This dates back to when the centre operated as a Day Hospital.

More recently the function of Caherina House has changed and it has become the location for the single point of referral mental health assessment Hub for the county.

As such it is a busy clinic and confidential information relating to service users is kept on-site. AL Anon uses the center outside of regular working hours, during times when there is no HSE presence in the building. Regrettably, due to concerns related to GDPR compliance and health and safety, we find it necessary to discontinue this arrangement, considering the HSE's legislative obligations.

Please be assured that the HSE will be instrumental in locating a new site.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

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