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Seirbhís Meabhairshláinte – MLM CHO8

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25th April 2024

Darren O' Rourke, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re PQ 16276/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of 24-hour-staffed community mental health residences within CHO8; and if all of those facilities meet the requirements of the HSE Design for Mental Health Guidelines.**

**-Darren O'Rourke**

Dear Deputy O' Rourke,

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 outlined the position as follows.

Midlands Mental Health services currently have three 24-hour staffed community mental health residences in Longford/Westmeath. No formal assessment of these buildings has taken place in relation to the HSE Design for Mental Health Guidelines. We estimate that one would comply with the guidelines as it was purpose-built in recent years.

In Laois/Offaly there are five 24-hour staffed community mental health residences. Of the five units, three have been assessed by an architect against the HSE Design for Mental Health Guidelines. One of them does not meet the guidelines as outlined. Two of them comply very substantially with the guidance.

There are four 24 hour community residences in the Louth/Meath Mental Health Services (one in Meath and three in Louth). No formal assessment has taken place in relation to these guidelines for these buildings. Feasibility studies were carried out by a team consisting of Architects' in 2021/2022 in relation to all of these residences. It was determined from these studies that all the residences would require significant investment including extension/new build to meet current building standards and requirements.



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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Donnelly', written in a cursive style.

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**Claire Donnelly**  
**Acting Head of Mental Health Services**