



Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
V94 C8DV
Teil: 061 461435/061 461313
Facs: 061 416744

Office of Head of Service
HSE Mid West Community
Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
St. Joseph's Health Campus
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
V94 C8DV
Tel: 061 461435/061 461313
Fax: 061 416774

Violet Anne Wynne
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

27 February 2024

PQ ref 5317/24 "To ask the Minister for Health if he will comment on the progress of a unit (Mental health de-escalation unit at University Hospital Limerick); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

The current situation in the HSE in relation to funding and recruitment restrictions has impacted on our ability to proceed with the recruitment of the specific staff needed to resource the CAST proposal in its original format and we are currently looking at how best we can deliver on the original intention of CAST from within existing resources.

In the current circumstances the HSE position is that the best option to deliver the intention of CAST is to stand up the Crisis Resolution Team (CRT) in Limerick. This team is due to be established as part of the new clinical programme and is a community based multidisciplinary team that provides rapid assessment and support to individuals in Mental Health Crisis. It's an alternative to inpatient admission and concentrates on providing care in people's communities and homes. A community café is part of the CRT model and could provide a key access point for the Gardai when engaging with people in crisis. Funding is in place for the CRT but additional approvals need to be in place before the programme can be fully implemented.

We acknowledge that the CRT does not provide a Garda co-response and therefore falls short of AGS expectation from CAST but we remain optimistic that the CRT would provide a meaningful response.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nuala Kelly'.

Nuala Kelly
Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Mid West Community Healthcare