



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta,
Caipéal agus Eastáit

Ospidéal Sir Patrick Dun,
Sráid na Canálach Móire Íochtarach.
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 P667

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Mr. Patrick Costello, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

20th March 2024

PQ 11328/24* To ask the Minister for Health his views on the scope and significance of the structural problems identified by HIQA within Cherry Orchard Hospital; and to outline timeline on when and how they will be addressed. -Patrick Costello

Dear Deputy Costello,

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.

Overall the buildings at Cherry Orchard have no significant issues relating to their primary structure, there is however significant issues identified relating to the floors in both the Sycamore and Willow units and there is substantial remedial work required on the flooring in both units to ensure they are safe for residents and staff.

These defects relate to the jointing of the chipboard beneath the vinyl floor. With the normal foot traffic, trolleys, occupied beds, wheelchairs etc. these joints have bent and changed shape enough to crack the floor finishes and the surface is no longer level.

These defects are particularly evident on the corridors where there is a risk of trips and falls due to continuous changes in levels. This issue also impacts the ensuite bathroom floors where the cracking in the floor covering has allowed water to ingress to the sub-floor timber sheeting. The timber sheeting has deteriorated as a result leading to soft spots and further risk of trips and falls. There is also inadequate bracing of the floor joists which is leading to further issues due to excessive movement in the floors.



The proposed remedial works throughout both the Sycamore and Willow units include the stripping of all floors, strengthening and stiffening of the existing floor joists, relaying all the subfloor timber sheeting and replacing all floor finishes. The compartment walls will be built below the suspended subfloor to ground along all fire compartment lines once the floors are stripped. There will be the requirement to redo the wall finishes throughout given the extensive nature of the walls.

HSE Capital & Estates, working closely with our service colleagues, have carried out considerable investigation works, ensured that the remedial works are designed to fully address all issues identified and have explored all options in relation to the rectifying these issues. We know how critically important Cherry Orchard Hospital is in the provision of services and we will do all we can to minimise the timeframe and disruption as a result of these necessary works.

The project is prioritised on the HSE's capital plan, has been tendered and will commence, subject to the availability of the buildings to a main contractor in vacant possession. The project duration will be approximately 12 months.

We regret that residents will have to be accommodated elsewhere temporarily. The health and safety of our residents is of paramount importance and we will work to address the structural issues promptly to ensure that the residents can return as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian O'Connell".

Brian O'Connell
Interim National Director
Capital & Estates