



**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 Fergus O'Dowd, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

7th May 2024

PQ 19960/24* To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on remedial plans to address the structural problems identified by HIQA within Cherry Orchard Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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 Sycamore and Willow units at Cherry Orchard require substantial remedial work on the floors.

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. There is ongoing engagement with the residents and their families in an effort to secure vacant possession of these units to commence the works.

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 these issues promptly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Brian O'Connell', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Brian O'Connell
Interim National Director
Capital & Estates