



Mr. Peter Fitzpatrick, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

20th September 2024

PQ 34407/24*To ask the Minister for Health if the 20% of HSE-owned properties (or 400 vacant properties enlisted to the State), which, according to a person (details supplied: according to HSE Chief Financial Officer Steven Mulvany), are lying idle during record numbers of homelessness in Ireland, are being considered for return to public use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Peter Fitzpatrick

Dear Deputy Fitzpatrick,

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 HSE has a significant property portfolio extending to c.4,400 buildings across c.2,600 locations throughout the country. These buildings range in age from pre-18th century to modern purpose-built facilities. The health estate is varied and complex, ranging from small health centres in rural locations to very large acute hospitals.

The HSE actively manages the portfolio including the disposal of identified surplus assets and has 214 vacant properties as at 31st July 2024 (c. 4.86%) that are classified as vacant.

Vacant Status	31 st July 2024
In Disposal	84
Retained Assets	87
Vacant Under Review	43
Total	214



Vacant properties are classified under 3 categories as follows:

1. ***In Disposal***; The HSE has 84 properties which are surplus to requirement and are in various stages of the disposal process. The HSE adheres to its statutory obligations and is required to offer surplus assets in the first case to the LDA and then to other State stakeholders (including Local Authorities) under Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circulars 11/15 Protocols for the Transfer and Sharing of State Property Assets & 17/16 Policy for the Property Acquisition and for Disposal of Surplus Property.

In Disposal Classification		Number
For Disposal	Building is surplus to HSE requirement and are in preparation for sale (title rectifications etc)	67
For Sale	Building is actively on the market for sale.	7
Sale Agreed	Building is sale agreed and in some cases is contracted to be sold. All properties are in a legal process at this stage	10
Total No of Buildings in Disposal		84

2. ***Retained Assets***; The HSE also have 87 Retained Assets where properties may be vacant and have been retained for varying reasons. Decisions, informed by Service Management are based on an understanding of current or future healthcare service needs in the relevant area. A building may be vacated by one service with a view to refurbishment for an alternative use, or a property may be maintained for future service expansion at a specific location for demographic or service requirements. The majority of these properties are small vacant properties on large healthcare campuses where divestment is not possible. It is prudent for the HSE to retain some element lands for strategic future health for that local community
3. ***Vacant under Review***; the HSE has 43 properties that are Vacant under Review. These properties are currently under review and are being considered for retention/reuse or disposal as part of the active management of properties.

State stakeholders, Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies have currently expressed interest in 55 of the overall total of 214 HSE vacant properties all of which are at varying stages of review.

Where a property is surplus to requirement of the HSE and there is no interest from a State Stakeholder, the HSE is actively pursuing the disposal of these assets on the open market.

The HSE continues to actively engage with the Department of Health, the Land Development Agency, Department of Housing, the Local Government Management Agency (Housing Delivery Co-Ordination Office), the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the Department of An Taoiseach in relation to its surplus assets as part of an 'All of Government' approach to increasing housing stock.

The HSE continue to engage with all stakeholders with a view to achieving the optimal use of State Lands and properties to meet overall government priorities across all sectors, including the provision of healthcare and community services. Every effort is made by the HSE to ensure that decisions and transactions are made on all property matters in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely



Brian O'Connell
Interim National Director
Capital & Estates