

14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Deputy Quaide,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 19637/25**

**“To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the projected costs relating to the construction of a proposed 50 bed residential mental health service on the grounds of St. Stephen’s Hospital, Glanmire; and the way in which this project can continue to be pursued in view of the Government’s commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the fact that this would be a centralised service taking referrals from far outside the local area for continuing care placements and given the centrality of community integration in our national mental health policy since the 1980s.”**

Dear Deputy Quaide,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE recognises that within Article 1(Purpose) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that people with certain mental health needs are encompassed as follows:

*‘Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.’*

Within the Convention Article 9, provides for *Access to Services*

- (a) *Mental Health Services must be accessible, inclusive, and provided in a way that enables full participation in society.*

The Health Service Executive acknowledges the importance of ensuring that all mental health services align with national policy and international human rights frameworks. Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for Everyone (2020) emphasises a recovery-oriented, person-centred approach that prioritises community-based care, social inclusion, and the protection of human rights, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

While the policy promotes the delivery of mental health services in the least restrictive and most integrated settings possible, it also recognises that specialist residential care remains necessary for individuals with complex needs who require intensive, multidisciplinary support. The planned €64 million centralised



residential mental health service at St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire, will be designed to complement and enhance existing community-based services, ensuring that individuals receive the appropriate level of care while maintaining strong links with their local communities.

Additionally, Sharing the Vision highlights the need for mental health services to be embedded within broader health and social care systems. The development at St. Stephen's Hospital will align with this approach by incorporating modern, recovery-focused facilities that support individualised care plans, facilitate transition to community living where possible, and uphold the dignity and autonomy of service users.

The HSE remains committed to the principles of Sharing the Vision and will continue to work towards a balanced system that ensures both high-quality residential care and strengthened community services, in line with best practices and human rights obligations. I trust the above clarifies the queries raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

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Yours sincerely,

**Declan Cronin**  
**Acting Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**