

Head of Service for Older Persons

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3rd March 2025

Deputy Padraig Rice, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 6324/25:

"To ask the Minister for Health if her attention has been drawn to the case of a nursing home facing closure in Kerry (details supplied); the steps her Department has taken to find an appropriate solution which ensures that the facility remains open into the future; if the option of the HSE purchasing the facility has been considered; and if she will make a statement on the matter".

Details Supplied: Ocean View Care Home, Camp, Co. Kerry

Dear Deputy Rice,

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 Health Service Executive (HSE) became the temporary registered provider for continuing services at Ocean View Living Camp Nursing Home, in line with the provisions of Section 64 of the Health Act 2007, from 11th September 2024. Ensuring the welfare and safety of residents, their families and staff was and remains our key focus.

When a centre's registration is cancelled, the HSE is the responsible body that must take over the running of the designated centre until alternative arrangements can be made for the residents under section 64 of the Health Act 2007 (as amended). Since the HSE became the temporary provider of care at Ocean Living Camp, we have prioritised the safety, welfare and wellbeing of the residents and this. The HSE does not own Ocean View and has been supporting its operation on a specific and limited basis.

The HSE undertook fire safety measures to address the immediate risks in the unit. Section 64 of the Act does not provide for legal entitlements to the building; the HSE is an interim provider of the service only and has no legal right to utilise public tax payers' money to carry out any extensive or significant works to a building which is still owned by a private company.

A HSE team attended on-site every day initially and continues to attend the site regularly. SAGE Advocacy has also been available to provide independent support and guidance. We have also continued to engage with HIQA and the current owners of Ocean View Living Camp.

The purchase of any private nursing home by the HSE would be extremely complex when a private unit has been de-registered.

Every effort has been made to facilitate any private investors who have expressed potential interest in the home. You will appreciate that the building is owned by a private company; any negotiations are commercially sensitive and the HSE would not be privy to same.

Our shared interest is the safety and wellbeing of all residents at Ocean View Living Camp Nursing Home. The HSE has been supporting and will continue to support them, their families and staff. All stakeholders including residents, families, staff and local representatives have been kept updated as this situation has evolved.

I trust this clarifies the position and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons