

**Deputy Padraig Mac Lochlainn TD**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare Street,**  
**Dublin 2**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**

**Re: PQ 29567/25**

*To ask the Minister for Health when capital approval will be granted to transition Radharc na Sleibhte, Carndonagh, County Donegal from a residential model to a recovery focused crisis intervention/ set down facility, supported with 24-hour staff cover, as requested by the HSE's Donegal mental health management team.*

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above received to this office on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position of Donegal Mental Health Service (DMHS).

DMHS have identified the need to transition Radharc na Sleibhte from a residential model to a recovery-focused crisis intervention/ set down facility. A feasibility study was undertaken by HSE Estates to incorporate a 10-bed crisis/step-down and respite facility supported with 24-hour staff cover. This phase was completed in December 2024.

A seven-day outreach service will support those who require it to remain in their own home and integrate with their local community. This is a recovery-based model promoting independence, hope, and choice for all and will be a further development of initiatives such as the wellness café that have been developed over the last few years. DMHS plan to use part of the building to provide this service.

Included in the plan is a Day Hospital service for more acute short-term service users, which will reduce the number of admissions to the Department of Psychiatry (DOP). This will support a number of service users with acute conditions to receive appropriate interventions while continuing to live in their own home. Provision will also be made for the current long term residents.

The design team has completed and presented the initial drawings including floor plans for the

- Outpatients Department, talking therapies, OT kitchen (all a shared space)
- Upstairs (1st floor) is a 10 bedded ensuite facility for service users
- A further section downstairs is for a therapeutic space for our 10 service users including a dining facility.

Meetings were held on Friday the 8th of November 2024 and 23rd January 2025 to update all relevant stakeholders including service user representatives, families, and elected representatives.

HSE Estates have completed the plans and the costings, and have presented them to DMHS. These were discussed with the IHA Manager on 7th February 2025 and then forwarded as requested to the Head of Service and the General Manager on 13th February 2025 and to the IHA Manager on the 26th February 2025. Both the IHA Manager and the Head of Service have given this project their full support and we continue to await confirmation of the necessary capital funding, prior to our next engagement meeting with relevant stakeholders.

As per National HSE agreed processes, a SHIF Alignment Form has been completed by Donegal Mental Health Management Team. This is an application to National Capital Estates to allocate the requested funding based on the identified need in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal.

DMHS await the capital approval and continue to support the development of Mental Health Services in the Inishowen area.

The timeline for this project is 18 months from date of commencement. The start date will depend on the confirmation of the funding.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rosemary Hannigan', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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**Rosemary Hannigan**

A/General Manager

Mental Health Services CHO1 CDLMS