



Offig de Meabhairshláinte Seirbhísi  
FSS Cheatharlach, Chill Chainnigh  
agus Thiobraid Árann Theas  
FSS Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman

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26th September 2025

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ 44719/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health her plans to invest in step-down capacity, as distinct from nursing homes, in the south-east for people under 65 as a transitional care option.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

Mental Health Services across the South East intend to submit a capital planning bid for a ten bed step up/step down facility in the former St Monica's Unit within Otteran's Hospital site in Waterford City. This facility will aid discharges from the Department of Psychiatry to the community and prevent admissions to the acute inpatient Unit.

This has been listed as a capital priority for Mental Health Services within the South East.

Our colleagues in Disability Services have provided the following update:

Disability Services continue to progress and prioritise supports for individuals to transition from hospital to the community on the basis of resources available.

As part of development we are reviewing a business case for a nurse led service for three individuals through a Section 39 charity for people with physical and sensory disability. We currently do not have available development funding for this business case however, this will be included as part of our 2026 submission for future development.

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

Yours sincerely

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Mrs. Anne Donaghey  
Head of Service: Mental Health Services