

Deputy Padraig McLochlainn TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

31st October 2025

Re: PQ51464/25

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

I refer to your correspondence in relation to the above received to this office on 30th September 2025. Apologies for the slight delay in issuing this response to you.

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.

The following is also planned:

1. A seven-day outreach service which will support those who require it to remain in their own home and integrate with their local community. This is a recovery-based model.
2. A Day Hospital service for more acute short-term service users, which will reduce the number of admissions to the Department of Psychiatry.

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

- Outpatients Department, Talking Therapies, Occupational Therapy 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.

HSE Estates have completed the plans and the costings and have presented them to DMHS. DMHS have submitted a funding application to National Capital Estates to allocate the requested funding based on the identified need in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal.

Both the IHA Manager and the Head of Service have given this project their full support and DMHS continue to await confirmation of the necessary capital funding.

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

Yours sincerely

Martina Lennon

General Manager

Mental Health Services Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo