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Deputy Jackie Cahill
Parnell St,
Townparks,
Thurles,
Co. Tipperary,
E41 VY66

14th November 2023

PQ 48414/23 "To ask the Minister for Health if the complement of nursing staff at St. Mary's Health Centre, Thurles, County Tipperary, can be increased if more permanent nursing staff could be employed there, rather than agency staff, considering that many patients with mental health difficulties who avail of the mental health centres such as this often build up a relationship with a nurse on duty and find it very upsetting when such staff members leave; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.

There are currently no agency staff employed in St. Mary's Health Centre, Thurles. Unfortunately, staff turnover is inevitable with sick leave and maternity leave for example. Every effort is made for consistency in our staffing at St. Mary's as well as our other services. Our aim is always to have regular staffing in St. Mary's in order to offer a consistent service to our patients attending. In relation to increasing levels of Nursing staff to St. Mary's Health Centre, the allocation of our Nursing resource is under constant review. We have a limited resource of Nursing staff and make every effort to allocate this resource appropriately based on the specific needs of every unit.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nuala Kelly", is written over a horizontal line.

Nuala Kelly
Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Mid West Community Healthcare