



Ceann Seirbhíse, Daoine Scothaosta,  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &  
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin – Cúram Sláinte  
Pobail

Teach Darach, Páirc Na Mílaoise, an Nás,  
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Service, Older Persons

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Wicklow Community Healthcare

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28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Patricia Ryan, TD  
Houses of Oireachtas  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ 51561/23– Cherry Orchard Hospital**

**PQ Question:**

*To ask the Minister for Health if, with regard to the HSE's proposed moving of 68 very vulnerable residents with complex care needs from Cherry Orchard Hospital to an alternative nursing home in Clondalkin, he will clarify how the decision to transfer them was made, in the absence of consultation with either residents affected or their families; if any consideration was taken to establish whether any other, less distressing/disruptive alternative was available on the hospital campus, to minimise the stress and trauma this move would cause to these very vulnerable people, many of whom suffer from cognitive difficulties, have very complex care needs and/or are in receipt of palliative/end-of-life care..* "Patricia Ryan"

**Response:**

Dear Deputy,

Dear Deputy,

The decision to temporarily close the Willow and Sycamore Units in Cherry Orchard Hospital is to address the current safety risks associated with the flooring in these units and to enable permanent remedial works to be completed.

The HSE reviewed several phased plans which would enable residents to remain on the Cherry Orchard Campus during the renovation works. Following an assessment of these plans and given the nature of the works required, a single phased plan (to progress the Willow & Sycamore Units at the same time) is now being implemented, due to the safety risk associated with the flooring in both units.

There is insufficient capacity on the Cherry Orchard Campus to cater for the relocation of residents from the Sycamore and Willow units to facilitate the renovation works. Vacant units on the campus would require significant building upgrade works and registration by HIQA before any residents could be relocated to these units. Additionally, they would not provide sufficient capacity to relocate the current residents.

Older Persons Services will support residents and their families with this temporary relocation using the principles of ADM.

The HSE are offering residents the opportunity to temporarily transfer to Clondalkin Lodge Nursing Home. However, a resident can transfer to another registered nursing home if they wish. The Nursing Home Support Office will provide assistance with this process.

All residents will be invited to return to Cherry Orchard once the renovation works have been completed.

A local transition support team has been established to support the temporary relocation. In addition, a comprehensive pre-assessment of each resident will be completed by the Nursing Home that they have chosen to temporarily relocate to, ensuring that the residents care needs can be met.

Yours sincerely,

Loraine Kennedy

Head of Service, Older Person Services

Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow