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10th May 2024

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 12581/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the cost of renovations to Millfield House, Blackpool; the cost of construction of apartments for mental health residents; and the number of residents currently in these facilities.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

Significant refurbishment efforts were undertaken in 2023 for Millfield House to be repurposed as a six-bedroom community rehabilitation residence, adhering to relevant Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) standards.

The residence has been completely renovated to enhance the living accommodation, which includes all single bedrooms with en-suites. Each resident was afforded the opportunity to be involved in the project, including choosing paint colours and furnishings for their bedroom spaces.

On 14th December 2023 Millfield House and Apartments welcomed back service users from their temporary home at Garnish House. This project has transformed the resident's lives and they have great pride in their new environment. There are also 4 residents being supported by the staff in an independent living model in Millfield Apartments which are adjacent to Millfield House itself. Residents and staff recently participated in the production of a video on the development which illustrates the positive change this has brought for the residents https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhMr_qbN9zI.

The total expenses for the Millfield House and Apartment project, as calculated by Mental Health Services, amount to €585,671 including additional maintenance expenses and security required during its closure from 2020.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Julie O' Neill
Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare