



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

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12th April 2024

Mark Ward, TD
Houses of Oireachtas
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 12669/24 – Cherry Orchard Hospital

PQ Question:

To ask the Minister for Health the timeline, process and rationale used, that resulted with the need to move residents from a unit (details supplied); what engineering reports and risk assessments were carried out that led to the decision to transfer residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

“Mark Ward”

Response:

Dear Deputy,

There are significant issues relating to the floors in the Willow and Sycamore Units, which require substantial repair work to ensure that they are safe for residents and staff.

There has been ongoing consultation between Older Persons Services in DSKWW CH and HSE Estates to finalise a plan to complete the necessary floor repair works in response to Floor Risk Assessments completed in the Sycamore and Willow units in Cherry Orchard Hospital (COH). This included consultation with the regulator, HIQA.

During inspections to scope out the works required to correct these floor defects, a further risk relating to fire safety was identified. Surveys undertaken of the sub-floor indicated that the compartment wall construction is not carried down below the suspended subfloor to the ground. This issue must also be addressed as part of the works required in the units to ensure fire safety compliance.

There has been considerable investigation works to ensure that the building works are designed to fully address all issues uncovered.

The HSE reviewed phased plans, which would enable residents to remain on the Cherry Orchard Campus during the required repair works. Because of the extensive and disruptive nature of the works in both units, residents will have to be accommodated elsewhere temporarily. All residents will be invited to return to the units once the renovation works have been completed.

The project is prioritised on the HSE’s capital plan, has been tendered and will commence, subject to the availability of the buildings to a main contractor. The project duration will be approximately 12 months.

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 repair works. Vacant units would require significant building upgrade works and registration by HIQA before any residents could be relocated to these units.

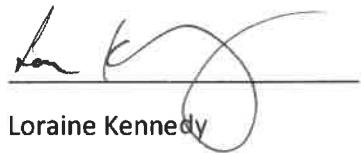
There is a significant demand for long stay residential care beds in the South Dublin area and limited bed capacity. Clondalkin Lodge Nursing Home was identified as a potential decant option for

residents, as it was a new residential care facility for older people in the local area with single ensuite room's. HIQA registered this facility for long-term care in October 2023. There are good transport links from Ballyfermot to Clondalkin to support family visits.

Older Persons Services is supporting residents and their families with this temporary relocation using the principles of the Assisted Decision Making Act. The HSE is offering residents the opportunity to transfer to Clondalkin Lodge Nursing Home temporarily. However, a resident can transfer to another registered nursing home if they wish.

We regret that residents will have to be accommodated elsewhere temporarily. The health and safety of our residents is of paramount importance and we will work address the structural issues promptly so that the residents can return as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loraine Kennedy', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Loraine Kennedy

Head of Service, Older Person Services

Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow