



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

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

Head of Service, Older Persons
Dublin South, Kildare & West
Wicklow Community Healthcare

Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas,
Co. Kildare, W91 KDC2

Tel: (045) 880 419

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Roisin Shortall, TD
Houses of Oireachtas
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 13182/24 – Cherry Orchard Hospital

PQ Question:

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 716 of 5 March 2024, if HIQA advised that existing residents could remain in a nursing home (details supplied); if so, the reason this advice was not followed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

“Roisin Shortall”

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. The flooring defects throughout the two units include the jointing of the chipboard beneath the vinyl floor. With the normal traffic, trolleys, occupied beds, wheelchairs etc., these joints have bent and changed shape enough to crack the floor finishes and the surface is no longer level.

These defects are particularly evident on the corridors, where there is a risk of trips and falls due to continuous changes in levels. This issue also impacts the ensuite bathroom floors, where the cracking in the floor covering has allowed water to enter the sub-floor timber sheeting. The timber sheeting has deteriorated as a result leading to soft spots and further risk of trips and falls. There is also inadequate bracing of the floor joists which is leading to further issues due to excessive movement in the floors.

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.

To correct the problems with the floors in the Sycamore and Willow units will require the stripping of all floors, strengthening and stiffening of the existing floor joists, relaying all the subfloor timber sheeting and replacement of all the floor finishes. The compartment walls will be built below the suspended subfloor to ground, along all fire compartment lines once the floors are stripped. It will also be necessary to redo the wall finishes throughout given the extensive nature of the works.

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

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 design team has advised that the project timeline for completion of works will be 12 months.

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.

A local transition support team has been established to develop a transfer plan. A key focus of this transfer plan is to minimise risk and to support residents and their families with this temporary relocation, being cognisant of the resident's care needs, care plan, capacity, and communication skills.

We regret that residents will have to be accommodated elsewhere temporarily. Our residents health and safety are paramount and we will address the structural issues promptly to ensure that the residents can return as soon as possible. Yours sincerely,



Eileen Burke

Acting Head of Service, Older Person Services

Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow