



Cheann na Seirbhíse,
An Príomh-Ospidéal Meabhair-Ghalar, An
tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Meabhairshláinte
Fhóirínseach

Diméin Phort Reachrann, Port Reachrann,
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath. K36 FD79

Head of Service
Central Mental Hospital, National
Forensic Mental Health Service

Portrane Demesne, Portrane,
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Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Date: 17 May 2024

PQ Number: 20601/24

Question: To ask the Minister for Health to comment on the heating system at the Central Mental Hospital; to confirm reports that the temperature was set below the HSE comfortable range at night time; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The National Forensic Mental Health Service transitioned from Dundrum to Portrane in November 2022. A comprehensive temperature control system was installed as part of the development of the Portrane facilities. Heating in patients areas is set at 21 degrees. Patients have a 3 degree control margin, enabling the temperature to be between 18 to 24 degrees. This is aligned to HSE recommendations.

Regrettably, at the time the Portrane site became operationally, the temperature in the ward offices was set to 15 degrees at night. Once the maintenance team were notified, this was rectified immediately, and staff now have control over the temperature in these areas.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bergin
Head of Service
National Forensic Mental Health Service