



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 Pa Daly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

21 January 2025

PQ Number: 46324/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the monitoring, support and evaluation efforts that are put in place when a person is released from the National Forensic Mental Health Service

Dear Deputy Daly,

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 (NFMHS) complies with an operational and legal framework for the release of patients from the service. This framework includes the process for temporary release, or leave; conditional and unconditional discharge. This framework has been summarised below:

Leave

Section 14 of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 sets out the provision for temporary release, also known as leave from the Central Mental Hospital, NFMHS.

The Central Mental Hospital, NFMHS operates a programme of temporary releases or 'leaves' from the designated centre for patients. Under the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006) all patients in the Central Mental Hospital can be considered for temporary release, also known as leave. The process of applying for leave is overseen by the Clinical Director of the Central Mental Hospital, NFMHS. The Multi-Disciplinary Team make an application for leave to the Leave Panel which is overseen by the Clinical Director. If approved the Clinical Director makes a recommendation to the Department of Justice and Equality. The Department of Justice make the final decision as to whether or not leave is granted.

The patient must comply with certain conditions when taking leave. Leave can be withdrawn if the patient does not comply with the conditions, or if there is a concern about risk.



The NFMHS has community-based Forensic Rehabilitation and Recovery (FR&R), consultant-led multi-disciplinary teams to support and supervise patients who, following their inpatient stay, are living in supported housing.

Conditional Discharge

Section 13 of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 sets out the provision for the discharge of patients from the Central Mental Hospital, NFMHS.

A patient can be discharged from the Central Mental Hospital by the Mental Health (Criminal Law) Review Board. When discharged the patient is required to adhere to a set of conditions related to place of residence, use of drugs/alcohol, maintenance of mental health, social circumstances, contact with the treating mental health team, avoiding harmful behaviour. There may also be specific conditions related to victim issues. These conditions are supervised by the Forensic Recovery and Rehabilitation Team. The Clinical Director of the Central Mental Hospital can recall a patient to the Central Mental Hospital if they do not comply with the conditions of their discharge.

Unconditional Discharge

A patient can be given an unconditional discharge from the Central Mental Hospital by the Mental Health (Criminal) Law Review Board. The patient is no longer required to adhere to conditions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerry Selvaseelan'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jerry Selvaseelan
General Manager, Acting Head of Service
National Forensic Mental Health Service