



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Social Care
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25 October 2016

Mr. Gino Kenny, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

RE: PQs 29241/16, 29242/16, 29243/16

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will make the funding available to St. John of Gods Kerry Services in order that they can build the required additional houses on the existing site in Beaufort, County Kerry according to HIQA requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will officially recognise St. Mary of the Angels, Beaufort, County Kerry as a community; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

"To ask the Minister for Health when residents are moved out of a place such as St. Mary of the Angels, the body or person which has ownership of the site and houses left behind; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Kenny

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

The HSE plan to implement Government policy in relation to supports delivered through the health service to people with disabilities is set out in the Transforming Lives programme.

The thrust of this policy is to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities in local communities. This involves a move from specialist centres to supporting people to live in local communities and participate in community activities.

"A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings" (2011) is the policy which recognises the need to support people with disabilities to move from large congregated settings to community living. The aim of this policy is outlined as "ordinary lives in ordinary places".

In line with this policy, St John of God Services campus in Beaufort has been identified as one of a small number of priority sites for de-congregation. A 'congregated setting' is defined as one where ten or more people reside in a single living unit or are campus based.

In light of the definition of a "congregated setting", it would not be appropriate to build further houses on the existing site at Beaufort as these houses would be campus-based and not in line with the recommendations made in the policy.

St John of God Services are working in collaboration with the HSE to implement a new model of residential support where people with disabilities are supported to live ordinary lives in ordinary places, with no more than four people with a disability living together in houses that are dispersed throughout the local community.

The aim of supporting people to move from residential centres is to support people to fully participate in local communities. This is best achieved when people live in smaller groups and can be more easily integrated into local communities. Community living is about more than accommodation. It is about who people live with and their opportunity to be part of a normal local community, "ordinary lives, in ordinary places".

It is acknowledged that the transition to community living is a lengthy process. The HSE wishes to assure all residents and families that any proposed changes in regard to the St. John of God residential services for adults will be fully discussed and that no changes will proceed until this consultation process has been completed with all relevant parties.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabrielle O'Keeffe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gabrielle O'Keeffe
Head of Social Care
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