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**Mill Brook Manor Nursing Home,**  
**Slade Road, Saggart,**  
**Co. Dublin.**

19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Sir Madam,

With regards to the proposed extension to Millbrook Manor Nursing Home regarding shared rooms and the potential to convert them to single rooms.

Each residential service has to own special features and layouts depending on the building and the needs of the residents who live there. The design and layout is to enhance people's abilities, promote their independence and enjoyment and allow for unimpeded movements.

Residents have a sense of ownership of their personal living space and acceptance of a shared responsibility for their environment. The environment needs to be safe, secure, comfortable and homely and efforts taken to stop cross contamination especially during pandemic Covid 19.

Robust Infection prevention and control procedures can protect residents from infections, including the increasing threat from healthcare- associated infections (HCAI), Covid 19 and reduce residents' hospital admissions, morbidity and mortality with an improvement in resident's accommodation and the use of single rooms only thus avoiding shared rooms. Creating a person-centred approach to help in the prevention and control of HCAI's and Covid 19.

HIQA are not recommending shared accommodation and a plan is in place to reduce all shared accommodation. Especially in new builds and extensions. Single rooms en-suite accommodation with a wash hand sink is essential to cope with changing times during the pandemic. As from November 2021 all nursing homes are to have extra hand hygiene sinks for staff so that ensuite sinks of residents' bedrooms are no longer used by staff and this will be inspected and monitored by HIQA.

With regards to the extension to Millbrook Manor and following a review of the proposed plans with the double shared rooms, as a registered general nurse and general manager and in consultation with HIQA all new rooms for an extension should be single occupancy for all reasons discussed above.



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A number of infectious diseases may be passed readily to other residents and/or members of staff or relatives and cause outbreaks. Nursing homes have a documented outbreak plan appropriate, detailing the actions to be taken in the event of an outbreak, an outbreak can be defined as two or more cases of infection occurring around the same time in residents, therefore it is essential that these residents are isolated in single rooms and not shared rooms

As we have witnessed already that nursing homes had up to 80% of their residents infected at any one time during a Covid 19 outbreak. Single rooms are required to isolate and to protect other residents not infected.

These single rooms would be part of our Covid Contingency plan in the event of an outbreak. This is a requirement by Public Health, HSE, HSA and HIQA.

These Rooms are ideally located at the end of a corridor with access through the fire escape door to enter and exit. This will facilitate compartmentalisation therefore preventing further spread of infection and protection of staff, residents and relatives.

These changes with the Double rooms and additional storage space will facilitate HIQA in the process of registration of the Centre.

As from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 all nursing homes will have infection control inspections carried out on all nursing homes.

At present older nursing homes are reducing their multi-occupancy rooms to single rooms to maintain standards going forward.

Under regulation 17 of the revised national standards for residential care settings for older people in Ireland June 2016 it clearly states

“The registered provider shall, having regard to the needs of the residents of a particular designated centre, provide premises which conform to the matters set out in Schedule 6.”

And Standard 2.7 states “The design and layout of the residential service is suitable for its stated purpose. All areas in the premises meet the privacy, dignity and wellbeing of each resident.”



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The health Act 2007 ensures that standards, legislation and regulations are intended to work together to ensure quality in services.

Your Sincerely,

Gerry Gallen.

General Manager.