

34 areas of non-compliance identified in four approved centres - 19 of those had a high-risk rating - MHC publishes four inspection reports

Thursday 17th January 2019. The Mental Health Commission (MHC) has today published inspection reports for four mental health facilities in Dublin, Donegal and Roscommon.

Commenting on the reports Dr Susan Finnerty, Inspector of Mental Health Services, said, “In three out of four of the reports published today we have seen some improvements in compliance with regulations, rules and codes of practice. In particular, the Department of Psychiatry in Roscommon has shown significant improvement and this reflects the amount of work done by the service to improve quality. However, the case remains that there is a lot of work to do to bring services up to full compliance. There were a number of non-compliances rated as high risk in all approved centres, particularly in the Department of Psychiatry in Letterkenny, that require urgent attention by the services. We will be focusing on these areas in the 2019 inspections.”

John Farrelly, Chief Executive of the Mental Health Commission said, “I welcome the publication of the Inspectors reports on these centres. This approach creates an openness and transparency around both the strengths and weaknesses of the services. The Commission will monitor each centre’s implementation and action plans to ensure compliance with the law.”

Department of Psychiatry, Roscommon University Hospital

https://www.mhcirl.ie/File/2018IRs/DOP_Roscommon_ir2018.pdf

The approved centre provided an acute psychiatric service and was registered for 22 beds. There was a very significant improvement in compliance with regulations, rules and codes of practice, from a very low level of 47% in 2017 to 79% in 2018.

This centre was non-compliant in 7 areas and 2 of those had a high-risk rating.

Regulation/Rule/Act/Code	Compliance/Risk Rating 2018	
Regulation 15: Individual Care Plan	X	Moderate
Regulation 19: General Health	X	Low
Regulation 21: Privacy	X	Moderate
Regulation 22: Premises	X	High
Regulation 26: Staffing	X	High
Rules Governing the Use of Seclusion	X	Moderate
Code of Practice on the Use of Physical Restraint in Approved Centres	X	Moderate

O’Casey Rooms, Fairview Community Unit, Dublin

https://www.mhcirl.ie/File/2018IRs/OCasey_Rooms_ir2018.pdf

O’Casey Rooms was on the first floor of a Community Nursing Unit. The Rehabilitation Team had access to six beds, and the Mental Health Service of Older Persons/Psychiatry of Later Life Team, had access to 18 beds. O’Casey Rooms is an unsuitable premises for both rehabilitation and the care of

elderly residents. The approved centre's compliance with regulations, rules and codes of practice in 2018 was 70%, which did not differ significantly from compliance in 2016 (74%) and showed a deterioration from 2017 (79%).

This centre was non-compliant in 9 areas and 4 of those had a high-risk rating.

Regulation/Rule/Act/Code	Compliance/Risk Rating 2018	
Regulation 15: Individual Care Plan	X	High
Regulation 18: Transfer of Residents	X	Moderate
Regulation 20: Provision of Information to Residents	X	Moderate
Regulation 22: Premises	X	High
Regulation 26: Staffing	X	High
Regulation 27: Maintenance of Records	X	Moderate
Regulation 28: Register of Residents	X	Moderate
Regulation 32: Risk Management Procedures	X	High
Code of Practice: Admission Transfer and Discharge to and from an Approved Centre	X	Moderate

Department of Psychiatry, Letterkenny University Hospital

https://www.mhcirl.ie/File/2018IRs/DOP_Letterkenny_ir2018.pdf

The Department of Psychiatry (DOP), Letterkenny, was the acute in-patient service. There was a significant improvement in compliance in 2018 (49% in 2017 to 63% in 2018).

This centre was non-compliant in 12 areas and 10 of those had a high-risk rating.

Regulation/Rule/Act/Code	Compliance/Risk Rating 2018	
Regulation 15: Individual Care Plan	X	High
Regulation 18: Transfer of Residents	X	High
Regulation 19: General Health	X	High
Regulation 21: Privacy	X	Low
Regulation 22: Premises	X	High
Regulation 23: Ordering, Prescribing, Storing and Administration of Medicines	X	High
Regulation 26: Staffing	X	High
Regulation 28: Register of Residents	X	Moderate
Regulation 29: Operating Policies and Procedures	X	High
Regulation 32: Risk Management Procedures	X	High
Code of Practice on the use of Physical Restraint in Approved Centres	X	High
Code of Practice on Admission, Transfer, and Discharge to and from an Approved Centre	X	High

Ashlin Centre, Dublin

https://www.mhcirl.ie/File/2018IRs/Ashlin_Centre_ir2018.pdf

The Ashlin Centre was a 44-bed unit located in the grounds of Beaumont Hospital and provided acute in-patient services for the North Dublin Mental Health Service. Compliance with regulations, rules and codes of practice has improved from 70% compliance in 2016 to 84% compliance in 2018.

This centre was non-compliant in 6 areas and 3 of those had a high-risk rating.

Regulation/Rule/Act/Code	Compliance/Risk Rating 2018	
Regulation 19: General Health	X	High
Regulation 21: Privacy	X	Moderate
Regulation 23: Ordering, Prescribing, Storing & Administration of Medicines	X	High
Regulation 26: Staffing	X	Moderate
Mental Health Act Part 4 (2001) Consent to Treatment	X	High
Code of Practice on the Use of Physical Restraint in Approved Centres	X	Moderate

ENDS

Issued by Murray on behalf of The Mental Health Commission.

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Notes to the Editor:

About the Mental Health Commission

The Mental Health Commission is an independent statutory body. The primary functions of the Mental Health Commission are to foster and promote high standards of care and good practice in the delivery of mental health services and to ensure that the interests of those involuntarily admitted are protected, pursuant to the Mental Health Act 2001.

To operate an in-patient mental health service in Ireland, the service must be registered as an 'approved centre' with the Mental Health Commission. Upon registration the service must comply with regulations made under the Mental Health Act 2001. Failure to comply with regulations may result in enforcement action including: corrective and preventative action plans, an immediate action notice, a regulatory compliance meeting, registration conditions, removal from the register (closure) and prosecution.