**St Mary’s Hospital, Phoenix Park**

The HSE has a responsibility to deliver services ensuring that the highest standard of care continues to be provided to all patients in a safe and secure environment. The decision to close Elms Ward was based solely on health and safety concerns. It was not taken lightly; the ward is in an old part of the hospital and significant capital development will be required to address the risks identified.

Following a recent Health and Safety Assessment of the hospital, a number of issues have arisen in relation particularly to flooring and electrical works in a ward (Elms Ward) in St Mary’s. Environmental risks were identified in relation to the safe evacuation pf patients in the event of a fire, as some hospital beds cannot fit through the doorframes. The HSE has decided to close a short stay ward on a phased basis with effect from 1st July 2019.

All patients will remain in the Hospital until their current care is completed and all commitments made in respect f future respite will be honoured.

Staff were advised of this decision through their line management structure and they will be reassigned within the Hospital.

All commitments for booked respite dates will be honoured within the Hospital.Engagement with patients, their families, staff, union representatives and any other relevant stakeholders is on-going to ensure minimal impact for all concerned is achieved during the closure of the ward.