

STATEMENT FROM ALONE ON HIQA FINDINGS AT OWEN RIFF NURSING HOME, CO. GALWAY

Charity calls on private nursing homes to ensure excellent quality standards

Dublin, August 21, 2012 ALONE, the charity which supports older people in need, has called on owners and board members of private nursing homes across the country to ensure that the quality of service being provided at their homes is excellent and in line with best practice. The charity made this call in light of the report yesterday from HIQA where nursing home inspectors expressed “grave concern” for the safety and welfare of up to 22 residents at the Owen Riff Nursing Home, Co. Galway. The HSE has taken over the running of the facility.

ALONE has also called on HIQA to ensure that enough resources are being allocated to carry out spot checks on private nursing homes and to ensure that swift action is taken to address any issues of poor quality service.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE, commented, “We are gravely concerned about the continuous issues arising in relation to the quality of service in certain private nursing homes. Excellent care provision in nursing homes should not be a privilege, but a right. We urge owners of private nursing homes to take full responsibility for the level of service provision in their facilities. This is an ongoing problem that requires swift and very decisive action to ensure older people who require the services of private nursing homes, and their families, can be guaranteed of the best services possible.”

He continued, “It is unacceptable that residents in this nursing home found themselves vulnerable and victims of neglect and inadequate services. We urge anyone who has concerns about the wellbeing of an older person in a nursing home to contact HIQA or ALONE, and we can act on their behalf.” On the inspection of private nursing homes by HIQA, Moynihan said “ALONE strongly supports the work of HIQA and the

inspections of private nursing homes across the country. We urge swift action by HIQA on private nursing homes which are not providing an adequate level of service for older persons.”

ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032, and further information can be seen on www.alone.ie.

ENDS

For further information or to speak with Seán Moynihan, please contact Glenn Hogarty on 087 790 9670