



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.
T 01 6207304 R: Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie

Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: sinead.reynolds@hse.ie

7th May 2019

Deputy Pat Buckley TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 17383/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the waiting list for inpatient CAMHS beds; the length of time patients have been on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pat Buckley

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

CAMHS In-Patient Units

There are currently 74 CAMHS inpatient beds across four inpatient units in Galway Cork and Dublin. However while we currently have 74 CAMHS beds operationally we never have access to all of these. Currently there are 55 young people in CAMHS inpatient beds nationally.

CAMHS inpatient services deliver tertiary level care and treatment to young people with severe and/or complex mental disorders. Inpatient Services are required for children and young people with a range of mental disorders (including depression, psychoses, eating disorders, severe anxiety disorders, emerging personality disorder) associated with significant impairment and / significant risk to themselves or others such that their needs cannot be safely and adequately met in the community by outpatient CAMHS teams. *Vision for Change recommends* 100 in-patient beds nationally for all aged 0-18 years, in five units of 20 beds each. The new Children's Hospital due to open in 2021 will have an additional 20 beds. There are also plans for an additional 10 CAMHS Forensic Beds in the New Forensic Hospital due to open in 2020 bringing the total number of inpatient beds for CAMHS to 104.

Nationally there was reduced capacity in CAMHS in-patient units in 2018. This situation has improved significantly in 2019 increasing from **36** children admitted to CAMHS in-patient units on the 31.12.2018 to **55** children admitted as of the 08.04.2019.

On the 08.04.2019 there was one adolescent on the waiting list for one week and fourteen adolescents undergoing triage a number of whom will not require admission to a CAMHS in-patient unit. Close



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weekly monitoring at national level of the activity and wait list for in-patient services takes place with on-going engagement with the in-patient units and CHO areas as appropriate.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services