



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

St Canices Hospital
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784494

19th December 2019

Mr. Pat Buckley T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 51715/19

To ask the Minister for Health that status of a building (Arden House), the plans of the HSE to use the property; the timeline for operation and the cost to the HSE of renting the property while it has been out of operation and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 53232/19

To ask the Minister for Health the status of a progress in the recruitment of a consultant psychiatrist for Wexford CAMHS and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 53233/19

To ask the Minister for health the vacancies in the CAMHS Team in County Wexford; and the steps taken to improve recruitment and retention of needed staff and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Buckley

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed that matter and the following composite response is the current position:

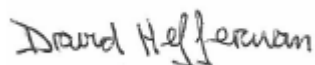
I have received confirmation from HSE Estates that the main capital works required to deliver services at Arden House have been undertaken and were completed in November 2019. The overall works will be required to be signed off pursuant to Health and Safety requirements following which the premises will be available for use by the CAMHS South Wexford Team. To enable HSE to occupy the premises and complete the necessary works, a lease was entered into between the respective parties. I can confirm rent to the value of €225,000 has been paid in relation to Arden House.

The CAMHS Wexford South Multi-Disciplinary Team comprises of staffing across a broad range of Medical, Nursing, Allied Health Professionals inclusive of Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Social Work, Speech and Language Therapy, and Support Staff. Vacancies exist across a number of the Staff Categories and the recruitment process to fill these vacancies is ongoing.

To date, mental health services have been unsuccessful in securing a Consultant Psychiatrist for South Wexford CAMHS sector. Every possible option is being pursued in order to recruit a Paediatric Consultant Psychiatrist to the area. There is a shortage of CAMHS consultants nationally. Advertisements have been placed in Journals both nationally and internationally to fill the posts on a temporary basis, pending the filling of the posts on a permanent basis through the Public Appointment service.

In addition to current resources, Consultants external to Waterford/Wexford are providing weekend clinics for emergency referrals. On weekdays, CAMHS teams continue to work within existing caseloads and have access to consultation with CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist by teleconference. Waterford/Wexford Mental Health Services key focus at this time is to secure appropriate consultant support and in the interim to continue to support the rest of the MDT team to maintain service provision as possible.

Yours sincerely,



David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare