



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
T 01 6207304 R: [Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie](mailto:Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie)

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

25/07/19

**Deputy James Browne,  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2.**

*PQ 30744/19 To ask the Minister for Health the number of HSE community mental health teams operational nationally; the number of consultants employed in the teams permanently; the number temporarily filled; the number currently vacant; and the period each post has been vacant –James Browne*

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 as at July 2019.

The number of mental health teams operational nationally is outlined hereunder -

	Community CAMHS	General Adult	Psychiatry of Later life
<b>CHO Areas</b>	<b>Teams</b>	<b>Teams</b>	<b>Teams</b>
<b>CHO 1</b>	7	9	3
<b>CHO 2</b>	6	11	5
<b>CHO 3</b>	6	11	3
<b>CHO 4</b>	10	17	4
<b>CHO 5</b>	7	11	5
<b>CHO 6</b>	7	9	2
<b>CHO 7</b>	9	12	3
<b>CHO 8</b>	11	17	5
<b>CHO 9</b>	8	17	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>32</b>



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The number of consultant psychiatric posts across the health services	456 posts
The number of permanent consultants in these posts	302
The number of temporary consultants in these posts	110
The number of unmatched/vacant consultant psychiatry posts	62

The number of posts refers to Whole Time Equivalent. In some cases there may be more than one person occupying a post (e.g. job share/part time)

This data is taken from our national Doctors Integrated E-management System (DIME) and as such is dependent on Hospital Groups/CHOs inputting details on their consultant workforce. This database has recently been introduced and the data matching exercise is not currently 100% completed, and as such there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within hospitals/CHOs. It is not currently possible on DIME to distinguish between Vacant and Unmatched posts. The ability to identify Consultant vacancies on DIME versus unmatched Consultant posts is due to be rolled out soon.

There is a significant shortage of specialist mental health clinicians worldwide. The HSE National Doctors Training & Planning Initiative is working to address recruitment and retention issues of consultant psychiatrists nationwide, including the consideration of local recruitment pilot projects.

The HSE WTE data collection systems are not currently configured to provide centralised information on duration of vacancies and so currently we are unable to provide information on the periods for which each post has been vacant. It is often the case that vacant posts are filled on an intermittent basis by locum, agency and overtime etc.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services



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