



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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Mental Health Service  
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17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

Deputy James Browne TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

PQ **11889/19** Question: To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the shortage of psychiatrists diagnosing adults with ADHD here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -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.

With response to the PQ outlined above, it might be helpful to explain that the primary reason a Clinical Programme for Adults with ADHD is being developed in the HSE is because of the lack of services. This is a common theme in most European countries, not just Ireland and it reflects the fact that our knowledge about ADHD in adults has grown in recent years. It is now well established that

1. ADHD persists in whole or part into adulthood in 60% of children with ADHD
2. It can have significantly adverse impact on the person's life,

With this in mind HSE Mental Health Services have now prioritised the development of a Model of Care for evidenced-based services for adults with ADHD nationally.

This does mean that in the meantime it can be difficult to get advice or help. It is suggested that nevertheless, people do ask their GPs to refer them to their local mental health service. The services have been asked to refer to NICE guidelines 2013, 2018 on the assessment and management of children, adolescents and adults with ADHD for guidance.

This is in place while the roll out of the Model continues in line with PFG funding available

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

Yours sincerely,

**Building a Better Health Service**

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

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services

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