



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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Tuesday, 06 August 2019

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett TD  
Dail Eireann, Leinster House,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

**PQ 21055/19: To ask the Minister for Health the details of reduced capacity in the Central Mental Hospital; the way in which waiting lists are being handled particularly during the transition from Dundrum to the new facility in Portrane; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Richard Boyd Barrett**

Dear Deputy Barrett,

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.

The Central Mental Hospital is the base for the National Forensic Mental Health Service and is the only centre in the state that provides maximum and medium security psychiatric treatment providing acute, medium and longer term psychiatric care. Admissions come from the Courts, the Irish Prison Service and other inpatient mental health facilities nationally. The existing CMH has 102 inpatient beds and operates at 100% bed occupancy. Due to a high demand for the limited number forensic inpatient beds, admissions are systematically triaged according to the level of therapeutic security required and the urgency of that need.

All beds are fully occupied by new long stay patients arising from the law reforms of 2006 and 2010. Therefore we have reduced capacity to admit. This will be alleviated to some extent by the opening of the new hospital in 2020.

The new forensic mental health inpatient facility is currently under construction in Portrane, North County Dublin. The new facility will provide for 170 in-patients including a new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (FCAMHS) and an Intensive Care Rehabilitation Unit (ICRU). This facility will replace the current Central Mental Hospital facility that is located in Dundrum, Dublin.

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

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Yours sincerely,

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

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services