



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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27<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

PQ 22192/19      To ask the Minister for Health when he expects the practice of admitting children and  
Question:            young persons to adult mental health units to cease -Fiona O'Loughlin

Dear Deputy O'Loughlin,

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 HSE is committed to age appropriate placement and to the minimisation of the number of admissions of children to adult units. While acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it will continue to be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units after efforts to place them in a Child and Adolescent In Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. All such admissions are also notified to a National CAMHS Lead Manager within Mental Health.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services

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