



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

St Canices Hospital  
Dublin Road  
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784494

25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare  
Dublin 2

**PQ 46175/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients admitted to University Hospital Waterford Adult Mental Health service in each day from 1 January to 31 October 2019 in tabular form, if separate tables will be provided for the Acute Brandon Ward and the Sub Acute Comeragh Ward and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**PQ 46176/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of days from 1 January to 31 October 2019 that the number of patients admitted to the acute Brandon ward and the sub-acute Comeragh ward of University Hospital Waterford was in excess of the bed capacity of each of the wards in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**PQ 46177/19** To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent staff allocated to University Hospital Waterford Adult Mental Health Service in each of the years 2000 to 2018 and to date in 2019, by job title in tabular form and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**PQ 46178/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of times in each of the years 2000 to 2018 and to date in 2019 that the adult mental health services at University Hospital Waterford was non-complaint with regulations for categories (Person property and Possessions, Premises, Staffing, Use of CCTV, Register of Residents, Use of Physical Restraint, Admission of Children; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 outlines the position.*

All admissions to the Department of Psychiatry are admitted to the Brandon Ward in the first instance. The table below outlines the admissions and discharges to the Department of Psychiatry (based on available data).

| <b>Year</b> | <b>No. Admissions</b> | <b>Total Discharges</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2016        | 682                   | 676                     |
| 2017        | 650                   | 596                     |
| 2018        | 633                   | 599                     |
| 2019        | 525                   | 488                     |

It is acknowledged that there can at times issues of overcapacity in the Department of Psychiatry. In instances of overcapacity additional measures including increased staffing and alternative external placements are

considered. Further to Mental Health Commission rules and regulations, the unit is not permitted to put up an additional bed beyond the 44 beds for which the DOP, UHW is currently licenced. In cases where the number of patients in urgent need of a bed exceeds 44 the priority is to ensure that any additional patients are accommodated in a safe environment while awaiting a bed. The table below for the overall Department of Psychiatry is based on readily available data.

| <b>Month</b> | <b>Over Capacity (44+) Number of days</b> |
|--------------|---|
| January      | 14  |
| February     | 9   |
| March        | 3   |
| April        | 8   |
| May          | 6   |
| June         | 8   |
| July         | 23  |
| August       | 11  |
| September    | 20  |
| October      | 19  |

### **Staffing**

Administration, Medical Staff and Allied Health Professionals are allocated to Community Mental Health Teams and they follow their patients as part of continuity of service into the approved centre when required and as appropriate. Support services to Department of Psychiatry are provided on a contract basis by University Hospital Waterford. The staff nursing complement assigned to Department of Psychiatry University Hospital Waterford is 11 WTES for Day Duty and 7 WTE Night Duty. In addition nursing management is also assigned with the Unit i.e. Assistant Director of Nursing and Clinical Nurse Manager 3.

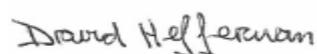
### **Regulations**

South East Community Healthcare (SECH) MHS continue to work with the Mental Health Commission (MHC) in relation to MHC Rules and Regulations. There have been significant improvements in work towards compliance with Regulations particularly in relation to Premises which has received €1.1m funding for upgrading works in recent years. However it is acknowledged that improvements are required in the DOP UHW with regard to a number of regulations including Residents' Personal Property and Possessions, Use of CCTV, Staffing (Mandatory Training) Register of Residents and Use of Physical Restraints. In this regard SECH MHS have recently commenced the role of a MHC Compliance Officer who assists in the rolling out of the compliance programme.

With regard to the code of practice relating to the Admission of Children Under the Mental Health Act 2001 the following should be noted. The referral pathway for child admissions is to Eist Linn the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Inpatient Unit for the region. Children who require admission would always be referred to this inpatient unit. In exceptional circumstances where deemed clinically required, the admission of children to adult inpatient units (e.g. University Hospital Waterford) does occur. These admissions are reported by South East Community Healthcare to the Mental Health Commission (MHC).

Should you require any further information in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**David Heffernan**  
**Head of Service - Mental Health Services**  
**South East Community Healthcare**