



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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01/11/2019

**Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD,  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ-43595/19** -To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with mental health issues accommodated by the HSE in nursing homes and other unapproved settings outside of hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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.

CAMHS Inpatient Units offer assessment and treatment to children and adolescents up to the age of 18 with severe and often complex mental disorders. CAMHS Inpatient Units are known as Approved Centres and they are registered, regulated and inspected by the Mental Health Commission. This means CAMHS Inpatient Units are subject to the Mental Health Act, 2001, as amended, corresponding regulations, and the Mental Health Commission Codes of Practice and to provide evidence-based assessment and treatment for children and adolescents with severe and often complex mental disorders.

The CAMHS inpatient service provides appropriate assessment, recovery focused treatment and education within a therapeutic environment, with the ultimate aim of achieving clinical improvement. The vast majority of CAMHS interventions are delivered in the community close to people's homes, in the least restrictive environment possible. Therefore inpatient services are seen as a last resort when all other interventions in the community have been exhausted.

When a decision is being made to admit someone to an inpatient unit, the child or adolescent, their families and the CAMHS team will consider the clinical improvements expected against any potential negative impact from an inpatient stay. These may include the impact of being separated from family and friends, any disruption to their education, or the potential for further trauma from being admitted to an inpatient unit.

Children requiring admission may be in the care of Tusla and residing out of home in a residential unit or foster placement. On completion of their assessment and treatment children are discharged back to these settings as appropriate. Children not in the care of Tusla on discharge may require on-going placement in a specialised residential service and such services are subject to regulation by HIQA.

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