6th January 2021
Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 44278/20
To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to adult psychiatric services in each of the years 2017 to 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

Latest available data to the end of November 2020 indicates a running total of 26 child admissions to adult units. This is compared to a total of 50 child admissions to adult units in 2019, 84 in 2018 and 82 in 2017.

2017	82
2018	84
2019	50
To end Nov 2020	26

HSE mental health services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization 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 only after efforts to place them in 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,

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Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services

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