



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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18th August 2020,

**Deputy Martin Kenny ,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.**

PQ Number: 20312/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients committed to the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum in 2019 and to date in 2020 by the courts; the capacity of the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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.

In response to your query which requested information about how many patients were committed from the courts , in 2019 there were 5 admissions under Section 5 and 1 admission under Section 4. To date in 2020 there has been 1 admission under Section 4.

The CMH is currently operating at 94 inpatient beds which is reduced from its usual capacity of 102 inpatient beds. This reduction was agreed with the MHC in order to allow us to open a 10 bedded isolation unit to manage suspected cases of COVID-19.

The new National Forensic Mental Health facility is currently at an advanced stage of construction. The facility will provide 170 beds in a modern and fit for purpose Hospital in Portrane. This development is the largest single Mental Health Project ever in this country and will provide for an increased number of beds and range of services provided.

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

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services