

6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 12660 / 20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults with intellectual disabilities residing in acute or long-stay psychiatric settings in Cork city and county between January 2016 and May 2020, in tabular form”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been asked to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health.

Within the HSE, the clinical information collected by a Doctor, healthcare professional or staff member authorised to process the data, is not passed on to others unless it is necessary for the service users health or social care needs. With this in mind, you might note that the information you have requested is not readily available and to gather this information would require the service to access the medical records of individual service users who accessed Mental Health Services in 2019. Furthermore, to do so would require the explicit consent of each individual patient to process their sensitive personal data per GDPR legislation.

As I am unable to provide you with specific data requested in your representation, I will respond to your queries in a generic format to provide you with information relevant to the service.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare strives to promote and protect the mental health of the population and to provide effective services to those who need them. Mental Health Services work collaboratively with other Health and Social Care Services. Our services have a strong focus on recovery and co-production and have consistently sought to develop and enhance community based services and reduce, where appropriate, those treated in more acute services.

With regard to placement pathways for service users, this generally involves integration between hospitals, general practitioners (GPs), Primary Care, Community Care &/ Hospitals who coordinate the delivery of care for the patient in a setting appropriate to their needs and supports the continuity of healthcare based on the individual needs of the patient.

In Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, Mental Health Services for adults are provided through Adult Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs), Psychiatry of Later Life (POLL) Teams, Home Based Treatment Teams, Specialist Rehabilitation Team and Intellectual Disability Team. In addition, dedication liaison teams are based in Cork University Hospital and the Mercy University Hospital.

These CMHTs and POLL teams are supported by day hospitals, day centres, acute units, residential centres and community residences / high support hostels.

Within the current mental health policy in Ireland, Vision for Change (HSE, 2006), people with intellectual disabilities should have access to high quality mental health services, including an I.D. specific multi-disciplinary community mental health team.

In 2017, as part of its strategic Service Improvement Programme of Development, the HSE's Mental Health Division initiated the National Mental Health Intellectual Disability (MHID) Service Development Programme. The aim of this programme is to develop a network of MHID teams across the country and to develop a National Model of Care for MHID. Following this, these MHID teams will provide mental health services to people with moderate to severe ID, and will work together with colleagues in other mental health and disability services, to provide a nationally-agreed quality of care programme.

A working group to review service provision and identify requirements for MHID team(s) has been established in Mental Health Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. It is important to note that any recommendations by this working group will be informed by the National Clinical Programme for MHID.

I trust this clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



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**Mr Kevin Morrison**  
**General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**