



8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Mr John Lahart, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 12817/20 To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the delays in the commencement of the mental health service for deaf adults; if his attention has been further drawn to the fact that a consultant was appointed to the service in October 2019 but no patients have been seen; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy,

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 up to date position.

I can confirm that Dr Xavier Fluvia has been appointed and is carrying out clinical duties within Dublin North City Mental Health Services. HSE Mental Health Service is always, and continues to be, available to deaf adults through the local community mental health teams by way of referral from the relevant GPs. If there is a concern for the mental health of any person out of hours they can also attend the local Emergency Department where they can be seen, assessed and the appropriate referral made. This is the case for all service users.

This community service for severely deaf people who use either Irish sign language or culturally deaf was proposed to be located in the Deaf Ear Village in Cabra Dublin 7. Unfortunately due to a fire on the premises in quarter four 2019 this delayed the repurposing of accommodation.

In parallel there has been challenges in successfully recruiting nurses which is an integral part in commencing this service.

- I can confirm that in August 2018 a campaign was held for three clinical nurse specialist positions for this service, three applicants were interviewed and all successful at interview. Unfortunately, all three candidates declined the posts when offered.
- The posts were subsequently offered out to the National clinical nurse specialist panel and again no one expressed an interest in the posts.

It is proposed to shortly progress another campaign, hopefully this new campaign will be successful in attracting successful candidates.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,  
Angela Walsh  
Head of Service Mental Health