



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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4th June, 2020

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 8135/20

To ask the Minister for Health the extra steps and measures put in place to deal with mental health needs of prisoners in view of the extra restrictions in place to protect the prison population from Covid-19; the extra resources made available in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

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 NFMHS operates a prison-based psychiatric prison in-reach and court liaison model as the most appropriate for the population distribution, demographic profile, court and prison operational organisation in Ireland.

The NFMHS provides in-reach clinics at Cloverhill, Mountjoy, Dochas Centre, Wheatfield, the Midlands, Portlaoise, Arbour Hill, and Castlerea Prisons. It also provides a highly specialised in-reach forensic mental health service to Oberstown Children Detention Campus.

The prison in-reach clinics are provided in close cooperation with the Irish Prison Service primary care teams so that a system of two stage reception screening is used to ensure early intervention. Weekly multi-disciplinary multi-agency meetings are held to ensure continuity of care and monitoring across prisons and through-care pathways back to community services.

During the first initial weeks of COVID some of the usual in-reach services were restricted and prioritised in line with HSE and government direction. However we are now able to provide all NFMHS in-reach clinics as before, using additional resources provided by the IPS including video conferencing, screened interviews and video interviews. In addition the IPS has freed up office accommodation for use by the NFMHS in reach teams to ensure accessibility to their prisons.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services