



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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**15th December 2020,
Deputy Denis Naughten,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 38980/20

To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the expenditure on mental health for adults compares with UK and EU average spend on mental health for adults; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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.

Mental health services are configured using different models across the UK and Europe so doing a direct comparison of spend wouldn't be a reliable indicator of service delivery. There are variations in terms of primary care vs secondary care budgets, financial supports to NGOs (eg Pieta house/ My Mind, Jigsaw etc in the Irish context).

Internationally, what does tend to be used in order to make comparisons is the number of beds and the number of consultants per 100,000 of the population. I attach a copy of a summary report by the NHS Benchmarking Network; International Comparisons of Mental Health Services for Children and Young People (2018).

Unfortunately I have not been able to source a similar document for adult services.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services