

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2020,  
Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ Number: 24726/20**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds in CAMHS filled or unfilled on a weekly basis from January 2019 to date by CHO area in tabular form; the reason for the empty beds; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

CAMHS inpatient services deliver tertiary level care and treatment to young people with severe and/or complex mental health disorders associated with significant impairment and/significant risk to themselves or others. There are four HSE operated CAMHS inpatient units located in four CHO areas providing national CAMHS inpatient capacity for the 26 counties.

Unit Name	Unit Location	Registered Bed Numbers	Primary Catchment Area
Eist Linn	Cork – CHO 4	20	CHO 4 and 5
Merlin Park	Galway – CHO 2	20	CHO 1 (partial) <sup>a</sup> , 2 and 3
Linn Dara	West Dublin – CHO 7	24	CHO 6, 7 and 8 (partial) <sup>b</sup>
St. Joseph's	North Dublin – CHO 9	12	CHO 9, 1 (partial) <sup>c</sup> , 8 (partial) <sup>d</sup>

- a) Sligo-Leitrim, Donegal
- b) Laois/Offaly/Longford/Westmeath
- c) Cavan/Monaghan
- d) Louth/Meath



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Admission numbers to individual units can vary and this dependent on existing unit capacity, clinical complexity and client mix in units.

Total bed capacity across all four CAMHS inpatient units is currently operating at 60 of the 74 inpatient beds available nationally. Bed capacity over recent months has been reduced due to a number of factors, including difficulties in maintaining required staffing levels, presentation and admission of complex and challenging cases which can restrict the ability of the unit to accept other new admissions. In addition restrictions applied by the regulator (Mental Health Commission) in terms of building deficiencies are currently being considered under the HSE's capital programme.

Details of how the four CAMHS inpatient units operate are contained in the following link under Section 5:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>

In response to your specific question as to why a number of CAMHS inpatient beds might be empty at any one time, this is dependent on the number and appropriateness of referrals received and subsequent admission to a particular CAMHS unit. Not all referrals are appropriate to be treated within a tertiary CAMHS inpatient facility. As with any healthcare system, services are structured to ensure that access for the vast majority is delivered in the community where this is clinically practical and appropriate. As such, most presentations can and are treated at primary care levels such as by GPs and HSE funded community based counselling and education services. Those who require specialist interventions are referred to secondary care services such as Community CAMHS teams. Only those who required intensive highly specialized treatment are referred to inpatient CAMHS facilities. See Graph 1 below for details.

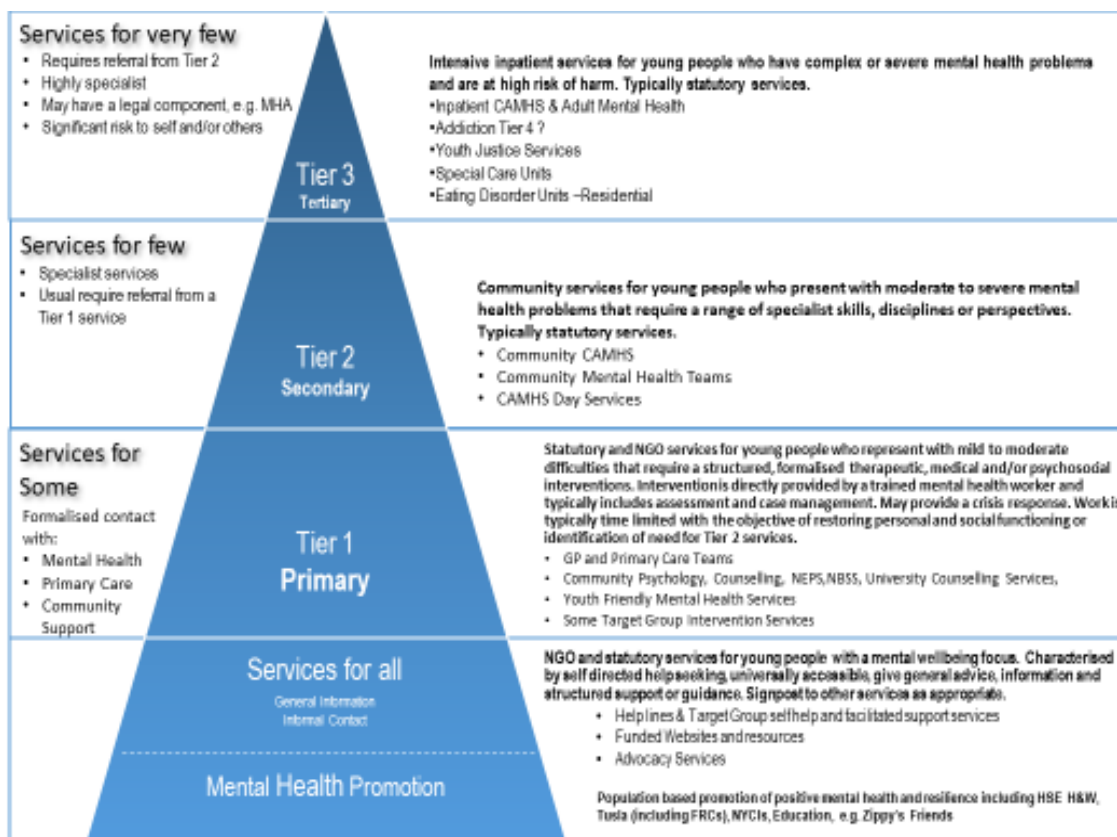


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**Graph 1: Hierarchy of how service are provided in CAMHS**





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As requested, table 1 below provide details of bed capacity and occupancy in each unit for 2019 and 2020 (Jan-Sept).

**Table 1: Occupied Beds per Week per Unit from Jan 2019 – Sept 2020**

	Eist Linn	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date		Merl in Park	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date		Linn Dara	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date		St Josep hs	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date
Jan-19	Sun			Jan-19	Sun			Jan-19	Sun			Jan-19	Sun		
	6th	18	9		6th	11	10		6th	23	14		6th	10	5
	13th	18	9		13th	11	11		13th	23	15		13th	6	5
	20th	18	11		20th	11	10		20th	23	14		20th	6	5
	27th	18	14		27th	11	10		27th	23	15		27th	6	6
Feb-19	3rd	18	14	Feb-19	3rd	11	10	Feb-19	3rd	22	16	Feb-19	3rd	6	6
	10th	18	16		10th	11	11		10th	22	15		10th	6	6
	17th	18	16		17th	11	11		17th	22	18		17th	6	6
	24th	18	14		24th	11	10		24th	22	18		24th	6	6
Mar-19	3rd	18	14	Mar-19	3rd	13	9	Mar-19	3rd	22	19	Mar-19	3rd	6	6
	10th	18	16		10th	14	8		10th	22	17		10th	6	6
	17th	18	14		17th	14	9		17th	22	19		17th	6	6
	24th	18	14		24th	14	10		24th	22	19		24th	6	6
	31st	18	17		31st	14	12		31st	22	19		31st	no data	no data
Apr-19	7th	18	16	Apr-19	7th	14	12	Apr-19	7th	22	21	Apr-19	7th	12	7
	14th	18	16		14th	14	12		14th	22	19		14th	12	7
	21st	14	15		21st	14	12		21st	22	16		21st	12	6
	28th	14	14		28th	15	13		28th	22	12		28th	12	7
May-19	5th	15	14	May-19	5th	15	13	May-19	5th	22	16	May-19	5th	12	7
	12th	15	11		12th	15	14		12th	22	19		12th	12	6



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	19th	12	10		19th	17	13		19th	22	18		19th	12	7
	26th	12	11		26th	17	13		26th	23	17		26th	12	7
Jun-19	2nd	12	12	Jun-19	2nd	14	14	Jun-19	2nd	18	18	Jun-19	2nd	12	8
	9th	12	12		9th	14	13		9th	16	16		9th	12	6
	16th	12	12		16th	14	13		16th	16	16		16th	12	6
	23rd	12	12		23rd	14	13		23rd	18	18		23rd	12	6
	30th	12	12		30th	17	16		30th	16	16		30th	12	7
Jul-19	7th	12	9+1	Jul-19	7th	14	13	Jul-19	7th	17	17	Jul-19	7th	12	8
	14th	12	8+1		14th	14	13		14th	19	19		14th	12	9
	21st	12	7+1		21st	14	13		21st	18	18		21st	12	10
	28th	12	7+1		28th	14	13		28th	17	17		28th	12	10
Aug-19	4th	12	6+1	Aug-19	4th	14	13	Aug-19	4th	19	19	Aug-19	4th	12	10
	11th	12	6+1		11th	14	14		11th	18	18		11th	12	9
	18th	12	7+1		18th	14	12		18th	15	15		18th	12	10
	25th	12	8+1		25th	14	12		25th	16	16		25th	12	7
Sep-19	1st	12	8+1	Sep-19	1st	14	12	Sep-19	1st	16	16	Sep-19	1st	12	9
	8th	12	9+1		8th	14	12		8th	16	16		8th	12	8
	15th	12	9+1		15th	14	11		15th	18	18		15th	12	8
	22nd	12	11+1		22nd	14	13		22nd	18	16		22nd	12	8
	29th	12	12		29th	14	13		29th	18	18		29th	12	9
Oct-19	6th	12	11	Oct-19	6th	14	13	Oct-19	6th	23	20	Oct-19	6th	12	9
	13th	12	10		13th	14	13		13th	23	20		13th	12	7
	20th	12	10		20th	14	13		20th	24	21		20th	12	10
	27th	12	10		27th	14	10		27th	24	24		27th	12	9
Nov-19	3rd	12	8	Nov-19	3rd	14	10	Nov-19	3rd	24	23	Nov-19	3rd	12	8
	10th	12	8		10th	14	11		10th	24	21		10th	12	9
	17th	12	8		17th	14	11		17th	24	22		17th	12	8
	24th	12	8		24th	14	11		24th	24	25		24th	12	6
Dec-19	1st	12	9	Dec-19	1st	14	13	Dec-19	1st	24	24	Dec-19	1st	12	10
	8th	12	9		8th	14	13		8th	24	24		8th	12	10
	15th	12	10		15th	14	12		15th	24	24		15th	12	7

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	22nd	12	12		22nd	14	12		22nd	24	23		22nd	12	5
	29th	12	11		29th	14	12		29th	24	22		29th	12	6

	Eist Linn	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date		Merl in Park	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date		Linn Dara	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date		St Joseph's	Total No. of Operational Beds	Total No. of Registered/ admitted Clients on Unit on this date
Jan-20	5th	12	11	Jan-20	5th	14	11	Jan-20	5th	23	23	Jan-20	5th	12	7
	12th	12	9		12th	14	11		12th	20	20		12th	12	6
	19th	12	9		19th	14	11		19th	24	24		19th	12	7
	26th	12	9		26th	14	14		26th	23	23		26th	12	10
Feb-20	2nd	12	9	Feb-20	2nd	14	14	Feb-20	2nd	23	23	Feb-20	2nd	12	9
	9th	12	8		9th	14	14		9th	23	23		9th	12	7
	16th	12	9		16th	14	15		16th	19	19		16th	12	8
	23rd	12	9		23rd	14	12		23rd	17	17		23rd	12	9
Mar-20	1st	12	9	Mar-20	1st	14	12	Mar-20	1st	24	24	Mar-20	1st	12	9
	8th	12	7		8th	14	11		8th	24	24		8th	12	10
	15th	12	7		15th	14	9		15th	24	24		15th	12	9
	22nd	12	7		22nd	14	9		22nd	24	24		22nd	12	6
	29th	12	7		29th	14	10		29th	24	19		29th	12	5
Apr-20	5th	12	8	Apr-20	5th	14	10	Apr-20	5th	24	22	Apr-20	5th	12	6
	12th	12	9		12th	14	12		12th	24	23		12th	12	6
	19th	12	9		19th	14	10		19th	24	22		19th	12	6
	26th	12	10		26th	14	11		26th	22	22		26th	12	3
May-20	3rd	12	10	May-20	3rd	14	10	May-20	3rd	22	22	May-20	3rd	12	5
	10th	12	9		10th	14	12		10th	24	24		10th	12	6
	17th	12	6		17th	14	9		17th	22	22		17th	12	5
	24th	12	5		24th	14	11		24th	22	20		24th	12	6
	31st	12	5		31st	14	10		31st	22	16		31st	12	5
Jun-20	7th	12	5	Jun-20	7th	14	9	Jun-20	7th	22	18	Jun-20	7th	12	6

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								20							
	14th	12	4		14th	14	10		14th	22	19		14th	12	6
	21st	12	4		21st	14	11		21st	22	22		21st	12	5
	28th	12	5		28th	14	10		28th	23	23		28th	12	7
Jul-20	5th	12	7	Jul-20	5th	14	11	Jul-20	5th	22	21	Jul-20	5th	12	8
	12th	12	8		12th	14	10		12th	22	20		12th	12	6
	19th	12	8		19th	14	11		19th	22	17		19th	12	5
	26th	12	9		26th	14	10		26th	22	15		26th	12	5
Aug-20	2nd	12	9	Aug-20	2nd	14	10	Aug-20	2nd	22	15	Aug-20	2nd	12	4
	9th	12	7		9th	14	11		9th	22	16		9th	12	6
	16th	12	7		16th	14	10		16th	22	18		16th	12	6
	23rd	12	6		23rd	14	9		23rd	18	17		23rd	12	6
	30th	12	5		30th	14	8		30th	18	15		30th	12	5
Sep-20	6th	12	7	Sep-20	6th	17	9	Sep-20	6th	18	13	Sep-20	6th	12	4
	13th	12	9		13th	17	11		13th	18	15		13th	12	5
	20th	12	8		20th	17	11		20th	16	16		20th	12	6

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

Yours Sincerely

Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services