



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

St Canice's Hospital
South East Community Healthcare
Lacken,
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784100

24 September 2020

Mr. Mattie McGrath T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ Reference Number 25294/20

To ask the Minister for Health the specialist mental health cover being provided at South Tipperary General Hospital; if a specialist nurse and doctor are available at the hospital 24/7; the mental health facilities available to those facing a crisis in south County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

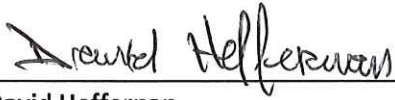
South Tipperary General Hospital is a Band 3 hospital and is the only hospital nationally that has a joint assessment available to individuals presenting with mental health difficulties. Where possible the SECH has managed the on-call out of hours NCHD roster for the provision of liaison service in the Emergency Department of South Tipperary General Hospital. However, due to the difficulties faced with the availability of NCHDs there has been on occasion a need for the nursing assessment to be provided with the advice from the on-call Consultant or the treating Consultant and also access to the NCHD on-call attached to St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny.

South Tipperary Mental Health Service has currently 8 NCHDs with 1 NCHD unavailable to do on-call out of hours. South Tipperary Mental Health Service where possible provides both NCHD and Nursing psychiatric assessments. A minimum of 12 NCHDs for on-call out of hours is required to meet our European Working Time Directive.

The South Tipperary Mental Health Services will endeavor to provide appropriate psychiatric assessment to those who present to South Tipperary General Hospital within its existing service provision.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'H'. A horizontal line is drawn across the page just below the signature.

David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare