



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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**16<sup>th</sup> October 2020,  
Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ Number 274439**

**To ask the Minister for Health the bed capacity available for HSE patients in private mental health care facilities; the process to avail of same; the breakdown of bed capacity in each private mental health care facility; 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.

The HSE purchase private mental health beds from St Patrick's Mental Health Services on a short term basis as required. The main purchaser of St Patrick's Mental Health Services beds are CHO 5 who purchase on average 6 beds a year. This relates to bed capacity issues in that area. Across the rest of the country CHOs sometimes engage in short term arrangements and this amounts to an approximate figure of another 4 beds annually.

In relation to St. John of Gods (SJOG), CHO6 have an SLA with SJOG Community Services to provide mental health services for the relevant catchment area. This is done by Cluain Mhuire services for adults and Lucena services for CAMHS. Cluain Mhuire purchase the acute inpatient adult beds for the area from SJOG private hospital. On average for 2020, Cluain Mhuire have purchased 26 beds from SJOG as catchment area acute mental health beds for adults.

In addition, the HSE has established links with private mental health providers e.g. Bloomfield Mental Health Services, Highfield Healthcare, Nua Healthcare etc . This amounts to approximately 354 HSE funded private placements for people with complex mental health difficulties. These private placements are arranged under Service Level Agreement or specific arrangements with the providers. The access process is managed by the Head of Service in each CHO in cooperation with the relevant clinical team.

In addition, in 2018 the HSE Mental Health Services commissioned two National Special Rehabilitation Units (SRUs), one in Highfield Healthcare and one in Bloomfield Mental Health Services to provide specialist inpatient rehabilitation and recovery services for service users with ongoing complex needs. These provide 27 beds and the referral procedure for these specialist beds is managed nationally. Funding is also provided nationally as part of an SLA.

An SRU is designed as an inpatient approved centre providing 24-hour care. Its primary focus is on active recovery focused medium-term rehabilitation with expected length of stay being 1 to 3 years. They offer a wide



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range of treatments and supports such as psychological interventions, self-care and living skills, medication management, peer support, creative therapies and physical health promotion.

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'.

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services