



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

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19<sup>th</sup> April 2021,  
Deputy Patricia Ryan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Number: 17742/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to increase capacity at the Central Mental Hospital in the short term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan**

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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 new National Forensic Mental Health Service facility in Portrane has been formally handed over to the HSE and we are currently in a period of equipping, testing, training and Registration on the site. The new hospital will have over 170 beds when it is fully operational and the first 110 beds are due to open in Quarter 3 this year. In the short term, the Hospital continues to manage its capacity through prioritisation of referrals, continued Consultant led Prison In-Reach teams and Diversion to other Psychiatric Approved Centres. The new facility will provide very significant additional capacity in the short to medium term

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

Yours sincerely,

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Thomas O'Brien  
General Manager Mental Health Services