



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.

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

PQ Number: 17743/21

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the actions he will take following the refusal by the Central Mental Hospital to comply with a court order by refusing entry to a patient on 19 March 2021; 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 HSE cannot comment on individual cases.

The Central Mental Hospital is operating at its Registered maximum bed capacity. This capacity has been under significant pressure during the past year due to Covid and the need to create an Isolation Unit within the Hospital. 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. 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. This will significantly increase the bed capacity of the CMH 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