



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

20th December 2021

PQ Number: 60337/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of mental health liaisons to be placed in emergency departments as provided for in the HSE winter plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

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.

Liaison Psychiatry is a sub-specialty of adult psychiatry and refers to clinical services which deliver care at the intersection of mental and physical health care. Liaison Psychiatry services provide specialist medical expertise of the management of conditions which occur in areas overlapping mental and physical healthcare, and are delivered in general or acute hospital settings.

Currently, mental health services are provided at A&E departments by Mental Health Liaison multidisciplinary teams. They are fully established in all Model 4 hospitals and most Model 3 hospitals. The National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm provides additional support to these teams. At present they are in 24 out of 26 Emergency Departments. Additional support in the HSE winter plan through SCAN nurses is planned to avoid presentations to Emergency Departments and assessment and management at primary care level. This year's budget is allocated to appoint 6 SCAN Nurses.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation