



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**PQ Number: 60340/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the delivery of the service mental health liaisons in emergency as provided for in the HSE winter plan; if the service will be 24-hour service; if peak times have been identified; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward**

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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 initiative is progressing at present.

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

Yours sincerely,

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