



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20.
Tel: (01) 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations,
Mental Health Service, St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Tel: (01) 6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Deputy John Lahart,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

14th December 2021

PQ Number: 61775/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to adult mental health units to date in 2021 - John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it will continue to be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent In Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. On every occasion that a young person requires to be admitted to an adult unit, there are nursed on a 1:1 basis continuously over the 24 hour period as per the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice.

Further information can be found at the following link <https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>

All such admissions are also notified to a National CAMHS Lead Manager within Mental Health and are usually reported on a National not CHO level given the small numbers. The latest available data indicates that there were 25 child admissions to adult units up to end of October 2021.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Service

Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING

Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING