



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Catherine Murphy,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**PQ Number: 62055/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of female prisoners who were awaiting transfer for an inpatient psychiatric placement over the past five years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Catherine Murphy**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

Female Prisoners on remand and requiring In-Patient Care may be admitted to an Acute Psychiatric Unit if deemed clinically appropriate/necessary. We do not routinely collect numbers of such admissions but they are very small in overall terms. In all other circumstances referrals of Female Prisoners requiring In-Patient Psychiatric Care are made to the National Forensic Mental Health Services. The referrals are considered on a weekly basis by the Forensic Consultants team and informed by predetermined criteria, a waiting list is established based on the priority needs of prisoner/patient. The current female unit in the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum has an approved capacity of 10 patients. The female unit in the new facility at Portrane will have an increased capacity for 20 patients when fully operational.

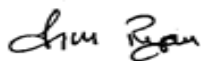
Please find below the number of female prisoners who were awaiting admission to the Central Mental Hospital at the end of each month since January 2017:

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	0	0	4	3	2
February	0	0	2	1	1
March	0	0	3	1	1
April	1	0	3	3	0
May	1	0	2	2	0
June	1	0	2	2	0
July	1	2	1	1	0
August	1	1	4	0	0
September	0	2	4	0	0
October	0	2	5	0	0

November	0	4	2	2	1
December	0	7	2	1	0* <i>*as of 13/12/21</i>

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

