



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

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18th February 2021
Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 5276/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals of adults and children that have been made to community specialist eating disorder teams from 2018 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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.

Most people can and do get better from eating disorders. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. Dedicated community based eating disorder services, where multidisciplinary teams have specialist training can provide evidence based care and treatment.

The HSE approved the Eating Disorder Model of Care (MOC) in January 2018. The MOC is the blue print for the HSE to roll out specialist eating disorder services in Ireland to address the current unmet need for specialist eating disorder service within HSE. Outpatient specialist care is considered to be the most effective treatment setting for most people with eating disorders. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/moc/hse-eating-disorder-services-model-of-care.pdf>

The NCP Eating Disorders are engaged with OCIO and are awaiting a decision on a business case submitted to develop a data system that will track patients over time.

I attach the following data; HRB (psychiatric inpatient reporting), HIPE (acute hospital system) for information relating to hospital admissions and the HSE Mental Health Service Delivering Specialist Mental Health Services Report 2019.

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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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services