



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

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**4<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**Deputy Mark Ward**  
**Dail Eireann,**  
**Dublin 2.**

**PQ 7471/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the date consultation will commence for patients of specialist mental health services for the deaf community; 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.

Dr. Aidan Collins, Consultant Psychiatrist took up his post on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Unfortunately no NCHD has expressed an interest in the post and we are currently trying to engage a locum through agency until the post can be filled from the next NCHD recruitment drive which will be advertised soon. Of the three approved Clinical Nurse Specialists posts in phase one of this development, only one post was accepted and no further candidates on the panel. The Area Director of Nursing will have to advertise and commence a new recruitment campaign. The administrative person is in post and Interpreters will be outsourced as required.

Dr. Collins is currently working with the Health and Social Care Professional Managers within this service to finalise the policies. He is also involved in the fitting out of the facility for this service which will be located in the Deaf Village in Cabra.

Referrals will be through the Community Mental Health Teams and Dr. Collins has commenced liaising with the teams within the Greater Dublin Area.

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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Thomas O'Brien  
General Manager Mental Health Services