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1st February 2021

**Deputy Niamh Smyth
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

RE: PQ 2654/21 "To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will address the concerns in relation to the shortage of professionals in an area" (Eating Disorders)

Dear Deputy Smyth

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position for Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Service (CMMHS)

CMMHS provides treatment for people with an Eating disorder, through the Mental Health Multi-Disciplinary Teams. There is one therapist who specialises in the provision of therapeutic interventions with adults with Eating Disorders and she operates as part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team.

The CMMHS does not have access to public beds for Specialist In-patient Eating Disorders treatment for adults.

In the event that a bed is not available in a public admission unit for either children or adults, the person may be referred to one of the private admission units in Dublin. In such situations, a referral is based on the outcome of clinical assessment, including clinical risk assessment, completed by a Consultant Psychiatrist. In situations where the family did not have the resources such as private health insurance, to fund the requested admission, CMMHS has paid for those admissions.

A further number of staff on our Child and Adolescent multi-disciplinary teams have acquired enhanced skills and training to work with people under 18 years of age with Eating Disorders.

The public inpatient admission units, for people under 18 from Cavan and Monaghan, are located at Linn Dara, Cherry Orchard, Dublin and St Vincents Hospital, Fairview, Dublin. When an admission is deemed necessary CMMHS CAMHS Consultants refer to these 2 facilities in the first instance. Should no beds be available in these units, CMMHS may refer

young people to the other public admission units (Éist Linn unit in Cork, Merlin Park unit in Galway) to access an admission bed.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Dykes', written in a cursive style.

Teresa Dykes
General Manager
Mental Health Services, CH01.