



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

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Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
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4th February 2021
Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 3298/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the staff shortages in the CAMHS by county and by professions in each of the past three years; the professions that should be included in a CAMHS team by county in each of the past three years.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

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.

The availability of skilled staff is a significant issue in Mental Health services where demand outstrips supply in both the national and international contexts and our potential workforce are availing of employment opportunities outside of Ireland. This is symptomatic of the overall recruitment problem that Mental Health services have been experiencing for the past number of years. It is recognised that there is a current shortage of trained Mental Health staff nationally and this trend is not unique to Ireland. Ongoing efforts, both locally, nationally and internationally, are continuing in order to ensure that all available avenues are explored in providing a staffing supply for Mental Health services, including CAMHS services.

It is often the case that staff shortages are filled on an intermittent basis by locum, agency and overtime. Despite these recruitment challenges and difficulties, Mental Health services continue to work with our local HR colleagues and at a national level through the HSE Health Business Services National Recruitment to achieve recruitment results in as efficient a time frame as possible for posts to be filled in line with HSE recruitment guidelines.

Further detail on the WTE in mental health services can be found on the website by following the link below:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/mental-health.html>

The attached tables below shows the clinical staffing levels for the community Child & Adolescent mental health services as of January 2021, it also shows the population covered by these services, the percentage of staffing levels when compared against the Vision for Change recommendations and the required amount of clinical staff to be at 100% of these recommendations



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I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services