



16th March 2021

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Mr. Dessie Ellis TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Head of Service Mental Health,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 D8H0.

PQ Ref 12274/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the mental health services that are currently available at the James Connolly Memorial hospital, Blanchardstown; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ellis,

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.

Currently there are three sites designated for Mental Health Care on the Campus of Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown which are as follows:-

The Department of Psychiatry is a 47 bedded Approved Centre as designated by the Mental Health Act and is inspected by the Mental Health Commission. It consists of Ash Ward (incorporating a High Dependence Unit) 26 beds and Pine Ward 21 beds (47 beds in total). This was temporarily closed to admission due to a Covid-19 outbreak for a period from 1st January 2021 and in line with Public Health Guidelines I can confirm the unit re-opened to admissions on 29th January 2021. The service provides inpatient mental health care for adult (i.e. >18 year of age) patients covering an area of all of Dublin 15 (pop 109,894); Dublin 11 (pop 38,908) and a portion of Dublin 7 (pop 38,068). This covers a total population of 186,871 (census 2016).

There are two Psychiatry of Old Age facilities also on-site:

- Hazel Day Hospital: A day unit for non-residential day treatment programmes for patients over 65 years of age.
- Sycamore Unit: A specialised approved centre for patients over 65 years of age with severe dementia. This unit is currently closed and will reopen after necessary refurbishments have been completed.

In addition to the above services, Dublin North City Mental Health Services provides an on-call psychiatric review service 24 hours a day 365 days a year to the Emergency Department in Connolly Hospital.

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

Yours sincerely,

Angela Walsh
Head of Service Mental Health
CHO Dublin North City & County