



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.

T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

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16th April 2021,
Deputy Joan Collins,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ
Number: 17290/21

PQ
Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of inpatient beds in hospitals nationally for persons suffering an acute episode of mental illness (details supplied); his plans to increase the amount of beds and doctors; and the timeframe for same. -Joan Collins

Details
Supplied: The Health Research Board document "We have no beds" highlighted the long-standing and pre-existing problem of lack of access to inpatient beds in Dublin for those with the most severe and urgent mental health issues. This was published in 1999

Dear Deputy Joan Collins,

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.

Public Mental Health beds include both inpatient beds/approved centres and Community Residences.

Each approved centre is registered for a particular number of beds with the MHC. Occupancy rates vary according to a number of different factors including the acuity of the clinical presentations, the availability of appropriate staffing including nurse specials as required. It is recommended that approved centres operate at 85%, however there are times when they operate above this. Capacity increases or decreases based on the needs of the population and it is important that units maintain capacity to respond to urgent cases.

In addition, there are Community 24 hour and Medium and Low Support Community Residences at CHO level either directly provided by the HSE or through Housing Agencies. The HSE does not collate bed data for adult services on a monthly basis.

The table below provides information on the number of inpatient beds in Acute Approved Centres for Adults and CAMHS, per CHO .

| | | Dec-20 |
|-------|----------------------|--------|
| CHO 1 | Cavan General - Unit | 25 |



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| | | |
|-------|---|------------|
| CHO 1 | Letterkenny General - Unit | 34 |
| CHO 1 | Sligo Mental Health Services | 25 |
| CHO 2 | UCHG - Unit | 50 |
| CHO 2 | Mayo General Hospital - Unit | 32 |
| CHO 2 | Roscommon General Hospital - Unit | 22 |
| CHO 3 | Ennis General Hospital - Unit | 34 |
| CHO 3 | Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick - Unit | 42 |
| CHO 4 | Cork University Hospital - Unit | 50 |
| CHO 4 | Mercy University Hospital - Unit | 50 |
| CHO 4 | Bantry General - Unit | 18 |
| CHO 4 | St Stephen's Hospital | 19 |
| CHO 4 | Kerry General Hospital - Unit | 34 |
| CHO 5 | St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny - Unit | 44 |
| CHO 5 | Waterford General Hospital | 44 |
| CHO 6 | Cluain Mhuire | 23 |
| CHO 6 | St Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park Unit | 34 |
| CHO 6 | Newcastle Hospital | 20 |
| CHO 7 | St James Hospital - Unit | 47 |
| CHO 7 | Tallaght Hospital - Unit | 50 |
| CHO 7 | Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital - Unit | 39 |
| CHO 8 | Midlands Regional Hospital PL - DOP Unit | 36 |
| CHO 8 | St. Loman's Hospital, Mullingar | 21 |
| CHO 8 | Cluain Lir Care Centre, Mullingar | 6 |
| CHO 8 | Drogheda Department of Psychiatry, Crosslanes | 46 |
| CHO 9 | Connolly Hospital - Unit Pine & Ash Ward | 47 |
| CHO 9 | St Vincent's Fairview - Hospital | 36 |
| CHO 9 | Mater Hospital - Unit | 9 |
| CHO 9 | Ashlin Centre - Joyce Unit | 35 |
| CHO 9 | Ashlin Centre - Sheehan Unit | 8 |
| | Total | 980 |

| | | |
|-------|--------------|----|
| | CAMHS | |
| CHO 2 | Merlin Park | 20 |
| CHO 4 | Eist Linn | 16 |

Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING



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| | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------|
| CHO 7 | Linn Dara | 24 |
| CHO 9 | St Vincent's | 12 |
| National | Total | 72 |

Plans to increase the amount of beds and doctors

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.

As the body responsible for implementing most of the recommendations in *Sharing the Vision*, the HSE are in the process of establishing an appropriate structure with managerial, clinical and operational representation to ensure delivery of its actions on an ongoing basis. The purpose of the HSE Implementation Group is to provide strategic advice, leadership, and guidance for developing and implementing evidence-based approaches to priority actions described in *Sharing the Vision*. The policy recommends examining current acute bed provision for those with complex mental health needs as a priority. One of the main priorities identified in the policy is to establish a working group to examine bed capacity in Ireland and consider the nature of mental health service provision for the population. The group is expected to explore international research to develop targeted service development plans that address bed occupancy and provision.

In 2021, additional funding for COVID emergency bed purchase in Private hospitals and further funding for ongoing purchase of external beds/long term care is agreed. An oversight group has been established to progress this work. To date, HSE Mental Health has undertaken a review of Approved Centres in our 9 CHOs and CMH to identify individuals with a longer-term care need. The oversight group has completed engagements with several service providers, and a tendering process is underway.

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

Yours sincerely,

Thomas O'Brien
General Manager Mental Health Services