



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  
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**30<sup>th</sup> June 2021,**  
**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh,**  
**Dail Eireann,**  
**Dublin 2.**

**PQ Number: 23823/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health his policy on the provision of mental health services to offshore islands. -Aengus Ó Snodaigh**

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

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.

Offshore islands are neighboring CHO 1, CHO 2 and CHO 4. The following is the information per CHO.

**CHO 4:**

The provision of Mental Health services to offshore islands comes under the remit of the provision of Mental Health Services to the Community. People with mental health concerns can be treated by their GP initially, and can be referred to HSE Mental Health Services when necessary.

The HSE provides a wide range of community and hospital based mental health services in Ireland, and these services have seen dramatic changes and developments over the past twenty years. These changes continue, as we move from the hospital model to providing more care in communities and in clients' own homes. The HSE website provide a wide range of information and resources and allow you to read more about Mental Health services - like details of the types and range of services provided, the health professionals who provide them, and other topics like counselling and suicide prevention.

**CHO 2:**

The island communities are serviced as part of wider geographical Community Mental Health Teams and would not have any island-specific funding allocation or cost data.

**CHO1:**

The only existing islands in the area served by the Mental Health Service CHO1, are supported by the Northwest Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) from Donegal.

Historically there used to be Outpatient clinics on these islands, however, there is no current demand for these, as Service Users appear to spend sufficient time on the mainland to attend the clinics arranged in Donegal



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mainland. The aforementioned team still provide support on the islands whenever necessary (e.g. medication management support). Access to the CMHT is available when needed.

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 that reads "Jim Ryan".

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Jim Ryan  
Assistant National Director  
Head of Operations