



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

07th December 2021

PQ Number: 57474/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the average length of time that children who are involuntary admitted to adult mental health units spend in such units; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it will continue to be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent In Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. On every occasion that a young person needs to be admitted to an adult unit, there are nursed on a 1:1 basis continuously over the 24 hour period as per the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice.

Further information can be found at the following link

<https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>

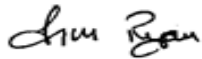
All such admissions are also notified to a National CAMHS Lead Manager within Mental Health and are usually reported on a National not CHO level given the small numbers. Please note the HSE does not report numbers of less than 5 due to GDPR were small numbers could possibly identify a person.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

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Yours sincerely,



Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Service

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