



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

20th October 2021

PQ Number: 48175/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of prisoners currently waiting to be transferred to the Central Mental Hospital; and the current bed capacity and waiting times - Peadar Tóibín

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 Central Mental Hospital consider referrals to the hospital on a weekly basis by the Forensic Consultants team and is informed by predetermined criteria. A waiting list is established based on the priority needs of the prisoner/patient. The CMH has an approved capacity of 94 patients at this time. The waiting list of admissions is in place as the demand for places surpass the availability of places in the facility. As of the 18th October 2021, there were 14 people on the waiting list and admissions will occur as other patients are discharged. The new facility at Portrane has an increased capacity of initially 110 beds and this will increase to 130 when fully operational.

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

Yours sincerely,

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