



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward.  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

**PQ Number: 48533/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 852 of 31st March 2021, if the tender has finished, the services each hospital has been providing since then; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Mark Ward**

**Follow up to: PQ 16301/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the six private providers that the HSE has engaged with to provide mental health services using surge capacity in private hospitals in relation to correspondence (details supplied); the costs in this regard; the details of same; and the services that have been delivered to date - Mark Ward**

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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.

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 to 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 was established to progress this work. To date, the HSE Mental Health Division have undertaken a review of Approved Centres' in our nine Community Healthcare Organisations and the Central Mental Hospital to identify individuals with a longer-term care need. This oversight group completed engagements with six service providers: including St. Patrick Mental Health Services, St. John of God Hospital, NUA Healthcare, Highfield Health Services, Bloomfield Health Services and the Talbot Group.



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As a result of this, a tendering process took place. This is now complete and Highfield Healthcare won the tender for an additional 10 Specialist Rehabilitation Unit (SRU) beds. The HSE are progressing with these beds with Highfield, who are in the preparatory phase of this work with an expected lead time of Q4 2021.

Further information on SRU beds can be found at the following link

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/rehabilitation-recovery-mental-health-services/>

Talbot Group were awarded the tender for Mental Health Intellectual Disability Beds (MHID) - 5 beds. The services are in the preparatory phase of assessment and preparing for transition. The timeline for these beds is also Q4 2021.

One of the recommendations in *Sharing the Vision* highlighted the need to consider the adequacy of acute inpatient beds provided for the general adult and older population. Recommendation 46 of *Sharing the Vision* states that:

*An Expert Group should be set up to examine Acute Inpatient (Approved Centre) bed provision (including PICUs) and to make recommendations on capacity reflective of emerging models of care, existing bed resources and future demographic changes, with such recommendations being aligned with Sláintecare.*

Following on from this recommendation, the HSE established the Acute Capacity Specialist Group. The purpose of the Specialist Group is to support the implementation of the STV recommendation, and to provide advice to the NIMC (National Implementation Monitoring Committee) Steering Committee on interim progress.

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

Yours sincerely,

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