



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
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29th September 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 43210/21

To ask the Minister for Health if steps will be taken to address the unacceptably long waiting list for the National Gender Service; his plans to revise the role of the National Gender Service in gatekeeping transgender healthcare to allow transgender persons access care in a timely manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 wish to advise you that contact was made with Ireland East Hospital Group, they responded with the below;

There are currently over 800 people on the waiting list who are waiting to be seen in the National Gender Service, and because of the ongoing increase in demand for the service this number is expected to grow. Following initiation of medical intervention in the National Gender Service, people attend us for review until such time as their medical transition is well established without complications. Once a person's medical transition is well established, and specialist support is no longer required, then they are discharged back to their GP for ongoing care.

The current waiting time for services at the National Gender Service is approximately two and a half years. Without additional resources this waiting time will continue to increase as the number of referrals received per year continues to exceed capacity.

I understand that further development of multidisciplinary gender care delivery in Ireland (including gender clinics) both in services for Children & Adolescents and for Adults is ongoing.

To address the deficit in capacity, the National Gender Service has submitted business cases for additional staff, with approval already provided for a number of posts (including Clinical and Admin posts) to begin tackling the waiting list and allow the NGS to offer a more diverse range of supports and interventions. The staff requested include additional Consultant Psychiatrists, but are mainly of other personnel (specifically, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Specialist Nurses, Physician Associates, and Speech and Language Therapists). CHI at Crumlin has recently interviewed and appointed a Paediatric Endocrinologist; further approval will lead to recruitment of additional staff which will help reduce waiting times for the service.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations