



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward.  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

06<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**PQ Number: 20538/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the inpatient services that are available for children under the age of 13 years who have being diagnosed with avoiding restrictive food intake disorder per CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter -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.

A key aim for the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders Services is improving access to assessment and treatment for people with eating disorders in Ireland. The National Clinical Programme remains committed to supporting the delivery of community specialist eating disorder teams and funding is available in 2022 for continued progress.

**CAMHS** (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) – is the general mental health service for children and adolescents, which is not an exclusive eating disorder treatment team. There are personnel within the CAMHS team that have the expertise to make an assessment of an eating disorder, and where there is low to moderate risk, treat the person within the team.

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the CAMHS inpatient approved centres. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. During ARFID treatment, a variety of therapies, services and interventions may be used and may involve a number of approaches.

There are 4 CAMHS Units across the HSE; Linn Dara Approved Centre, Dublin, St Josephs Approved Centre in Dublin, Eist Linn Approved Centre in Cork and Merlin Park Approved Centre in Galway. Specialist eating disorder beds are available in Merlin Park Galway and Linn Dara Approved Centre's. There are plans for an Eating Disorder Unit in the new National Children's Hospital which will provide 8 additional beds.

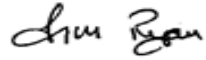
Two CAMHS Inpatient Units, Linn Dara in Dublin and Merlin Park in Galway admit children under the age of 13 years. Linn Dara has provided treatment to a number of children with a diagnosis of ARFID.

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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**