



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

07<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**PQ Number: 2034/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the minimum staffing requirements for liaison psychiatrists as outlined in A Vision for Change; and the current level of staffing for same - 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.

Liaison Psychiatry is a sub-specialty of adult psychiatry and refers to clinical services which deliver care at the intersection of mental and physical health care. Liaison Psychiatry services provide specialist medical expertise of the management of conditions which occur in areas overlapping mental and physical healthcare, and is delivered in general or acute hospital settings. A key component of the work of the Liaison Psychiatry team is to the Emergency Departments of their hospitals. The service provided to people who present following self-harm in Ireland is guided by the National Guidelines of the National Clinical Programme for people presenting to EDs following self-harm (NCP-SH).

Liaison Psychiatry services are available in all acute hospitals in Ireland with an Emergency Department, nine Model 4 hospitals, 18 Model 3 hospitals, and 2 tertiary paediatric hospitals.

No services currently meet the minimum level of staffing as per A Vision for Change, with work ongoing to develop a Liaison Psychiatry Model of Care in collaboration with the Faculty of Liaison Psychiatry at the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland.

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**