

14th January 2022

Deputy Cian O'Callaghan T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [cian.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:cian.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie)

Re: PQ 63568/21 – NGS

**"To ask the Minister for Health if the assessments that take place at the National Gender Service meet international best practice; if his attention has been drawn to the concerns raised by service users regarding the questions they are asked during the assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

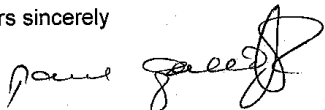
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the National Gender Service (NGS), which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the National Gender Service aims to provide a holistic approach to gender care. They are the national adult service, providing care to residents in the Republic of Ireland. The NGS is a fully public service provided by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and St John of God Services based at St Columcille's Hospital, and work as a multidisciplinary team.

The National Gender Service is based on a Model of Care developed by the Mental Health Division in 2016 and approved by the Ireland East Hospital Group's Steering Group for the Development of a National Gender Service in 2018 (NGSMOC 2018). The service is governed by a Clinical Governance Committee, comprised of the clinical and administrative staff of the NGS, as well as the management and Clinical Directors of St Columcille's Hospital and Cluain Mhuire Services, St John of God Community Services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery



Declan Lyons, Chief Executive /  
Elaine Mead, Interim Chair Tel: 01-9602360

One Kilmainham Square,  
Inchicore Road,  
Dublin 8,  
D08 ET1W