



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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Deputy Róisín Shortall.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

26th July 2022

PQ Number: 38068/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of child and adolescent psychiatric in-patient beds in each public hospital by year, age and hospital from 2015 to 2021 and to date in 2022 in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

CAMHS inpatient units offer assessment and treatment to children and adolescents up to the age of 18, with severe and often complex mental health difficulties. CAMHS inpatient units are known as “Approved Centres” and they are inspected by the Mental Health Commission. This means there are rules and codes of practice and legislation which must be followed by all CAMHS Inpatient Units. These regulations cover physical examination, physical restraint, risk assessment, admission, transfer and discharge from a CAMHS inpatient unit. Currently there are four HSE/HSE funded inpatient CAMHS units across the country with 68 beds available.

The table below provides detail on the number of child and adolescent psychiatric in-patient beds in each of the CAMHS inpatient units from 2015 to 2021.

Unit	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Comments
Merlin Park, Galway	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	16**	**Originally 20 beds available but 4 of the bedrooms were twin rooms. These were changed to single occupancy rooms during Covid
Linn Dara, Dublin	22	22	22	22	24*	24	24	24	*2 additional high Obs beds



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								(22 + 2 High Obs)	
St Vincent's, Fairview	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	
Eist Linn, Cork	20	20	20	20	16#	16	16	16	#Previously 20 beds, but 4 bedrooms were replaced by a HDU facility
Total	74	74	74	74	72	72	72	68	

At any point in time the number of operational beds, (beds available for admission), can vary below this number due to a number of factors e.g. staffing vacancies, the clinical mix and risks associated with the patients already admitted to the unit (severe challenging behaviours, vulnerable patient group).

In addition to the above, there will be an additional number of new CAMHS beds which will be located as follows:

Children's Health Ireland

Construction is progressing on the New Children's Hospital which is being developed at the campus of St. James's Hospital in Dublin. The St. James's site ensures that the planned co-location with an adult hospital and, ultimately, tri-location with a maternity hospital, will be delivered. It will accommodate the national specialist eating disorder service with 8 inpatient beds and a 12 bed general inpatient unit. Completion of the New Children's Hospital is planned for 2023.

New National Forensic Hospital

The National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) is a new state-of-the-art facility located in Portrane, North County Dublin. The Service will provide care for 170 patients in the facility as well as community and prison in-reach services. The development will also include a 10 bed secure adolescent inpatient unit.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services