



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

24th August 2022

PQ Number: 41532/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the number of beds in CAMHS; the number that are currently operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

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.

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 72 registered beds with the Mental Health Commission across the four HSE/HSE funded inpatient CAMHS units in the country.

The table below provides detail on the number of operational beds in each of the CAMHS inpatient units as at 11th August 2022.

Unit	As at August 2022	Comments
Merlin Park, Galway	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	13	24 registered beds (22 + 2 High Obs beds) Beds temporarily reduced 13
St Vincent's, Fairview	10	12 registered beds, currently reduced to 10 beds due to staffing



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Eist Linn, Cork	12	16 Registered beds, temporarily reduced to 12 due to Consultant vacancy. It is anticipated that the vacant post will be filled by Sept./Oct.
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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).

Further to my response to your Parliamentary Question **27034/22**, the decision was made by Senior Management in Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare in May 2022, to temporarily reduce the number of beds in Linn Dara Approved Centre from 24 to 13. This decision was not made lightly and had arisen due to continuing difficulties to maintain safe staffing levels on the unit. As per my response to your Parliamentary Question **37491/22**, this matter remains under constant review and it is expected that the reduction in beds will continue until September when Nursing Graduates become available. A bespoke recruitment campaign is in place to maximize graduate employment.

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