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24<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**PQ Number: 41835/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of liaison psychiatrists available in CHO3 and CHO5; the number of liaison psychiatrists available at Tipperary University Hospital. -Martin Browne**

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Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

While 'A Vision for Change' (2006) recommended specific staffing levels across a range of disciplines and areas of work, including the recommendation to increase to 13 the number of liaison psychiatry teams, the current mental health policy, 'Sharing the Vision', is not prescriptive in this regard but focuses instead on the further development of models of care in mental health service delivery.

Included in this approach is the commitment to develop a Liaison Mental Health Model of Care in 2022. Progress with regard to this will be reported on a quarterly basis to the independently chaired National Implementation Monitoring Committee with reference to Recommendation 60 which states: "Continued expansion of liaison mental health services for all age groups should take place in the context of an integrated Liaison Mental Health Model of Care." This work and the roll-out of additional liaison mental health services will be informed by a review of liaison mental health services in Ireland which was published in November 2021.

(<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2021.748224/full> )

With a focus on integrated care and putting service users at the centre of service development, liaison mental health services will be complemented by related recommendations in 'Sharing the Vision', including Recommendation 17 which addresses the use of the mental health consultation / liaison model to ensure improved linkages between primary care and secondary mental health services.

I wish to advise that work to develop a Liaison Psychiatry Model of Care in collaboration with the Faculty of Liaison Psychiatry at the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is ongoing.

Please see data below in response to your Parliamentary Question:

**CHO 3** - 1 Liaison Consultant Psychiatrist for the Adult Service.

**CHO 5**

No. of Liaison Psychiatrists in CHO5 – 1 Consultant, 4 NCHDs.

No. of Liaison Psychiatrists in Tipperary University Hospital – 1 NCHD.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services**