



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 Richard Bruton,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th July 2022

PQ Number: 34417/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the increase in mental health funding in each of the past five years; the increase in frontline staff who have been put in place; and his vision for the sector in the coming years - Richard Bruton

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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.

Increase in Mental Health Funding

The table below outlines the increase in mental health funding for the past five years

Net Mental Health Funding 2017 to 2022						
Heading	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Budget per NSP	853.1	917.8	987.4	1,031.3	1,114.0	1,159.0
PFG development funding	35.0	35.0	35.0	13.0	23.0	24.0
Note 1: Other increases received include pay restoration funding and existing level of service funding over this period.						



Increase in Frontline Staff

Staffing levels are computed in terms of Whole Time Equivalents (WTE). The table below provides detail on the overall WTE change in the Mental Health Service from December 2017 to May 2022. The overall Mental Health Service WTE (whole time equivalent) has increased from 9,798 WTE in December 2017 to 10,485 WTE in May 2022. This represents an increase of 687 WTE or 7% over this period. This growth has occurred across all Staff Groups.

Staff Category /Group	WTE Dec 2017	WTE Dec 2018	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Dec 2021	WTE May 2022	WTE Change Dec 2017 to May 2022	% change Dec 2017 to May 2022
Mental Health Service	9,798	9,898	9,954	10,301	10,362	10,485	+687	+7.0%

Vision for Mental Health Services in the coming years

Following on from 'A Vision for Change' (2006), 'Sharing the Vision; A Mental Health Policy for Everyone' (2020) continues to provide a policy framework for the continued development and enhancement of mental health services in Ireland. The Sharing the Vision policy adopts a lifecycle approach to address the needs of the population by placing the individual at the centre of service delivery at different stages throughout the lifecycle.

It aims to enhance the provision of mental health services and supports across a continuum of care, including:

- mental health promotion
- prevention and early intervention
- acute and specialist mental health services

Some intended outcomes are:

- the creation of a mental health system that focuses on the requirements of the individual
- the development and delivery of a range of integrated activities to promote positive mental health in the community



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

- increased participation of service users, families, carers and supporters in the design of mental health services
- the enhanced provision of accessible, comprehensive and community-based mental health services
- enhanced capacity of primary care services to respond to mental health needs, thereby reducing the requirement for specialist mental health services

Further information on the policy can be found here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2e46f-sharing-the-vision-a-mental-health-policy-for-everyone/>

The Sharing the Vision Implementation Plan 2022 – 2024, which was developed in collaboration with key stakeholders and providing detailed 3-year plans for each of the policy's 100 recommendations can be found here:

<https://assets.gov.ie/219435/7a8c78e1-98ad-4542-9a61-a13195a727d6.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services