

10.03.2022

Róisín Shorthall TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 10928/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address matters regarding a service (details supplied) in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shorthall

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed this matter and the following is the position:

The 44 bed Department of Psychiatry (DOP), University Hospital Waterford is the designated approved centre for acute inpatient services for the counties of Waterford and Wexford.


Referrals to the Dept of Psychiatry are through a Consultant Psychiatrist who will make the clinical decision to admit based on the level of acute presentation/need. All patients in the Dept of Psychiatry are under the care of a Consultant Psychiatrist.

There is a worldwide shortage of Consultant Psychiatrists and Waterford / Wexford MHS are actively involved in both national and international recruitment campaigns with regard to this matter. The service also liaises with locum agency providers in this regard.

In addition, I can confirm that from the data currently available to us there have been 2 inpatient deaths between the years 2017 to 2022.

Should you require any further information in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare