



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Matt Carthy,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

31st March 2022

PQ Number: 13187/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of CAHMS inpatient beds by the lowest available geographic unit in each of the years 2016 to 2021 and to date in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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.

Currently there are four inpatient CAMHS units in Ireland. Table 1 below provides detail on the location and primary catchment areas of the units.

CAMHS Unit	Location	Primary Catchment Area
Merlin Park (HSE)	Galway	CHO1(a) Sligo/Leitrim/ Donegal, CHO2, CHO3
Eist Linn (HSE)	Cork	CHO4 & CHO5
Linn Dara (HSE)	West Dublin	CHO6, CHO7, CHO8 (a) Laois/Offaly/Longford/ Westmeath
St. Vincent's (HSE funded)	North Dublin	CHO9, CHO1 (b) (Cavan/Monaghan CHO8 (b) (Louth/Meath)

Referring to the Appropriate CAMHS Inpatient Unit

A per the CAMHS Operational Guideline 2019, when a local CAMHS Inpatient Unit is unable to offer a bed due to capacity issues, the referring Consultant Psychiatrist may, with parental consent, make a referral to other CAMHS Inpatient Units around the country. Referrals from outside catchment areas will be considered when the local unit cannot offer a bed. These referrals are prioritised based on clinical need. This process is supported by weekly communication between the four regional CAMHS Inpatient Units and the HSE National Mental Health Operational Management Team.



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Table 2 below provides detail on number of inpatient mental health beds for CAMHS from 2016 to 2022.

Merlin Park	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered Beds -MHC	20	20	20	20	20	20	17
Eist Linn	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered Beds -MHC	20	20	20	20	16	16	16
Linn Dara	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered Beds - MHC	22	22	22	22	24	22	24
St. Vincent's	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 Q1	2022
Registered Beds - MHC	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

Please note the following:

In 2020, Eist Linn reduced their beds from 20 to 16 to facilitate a restructuring of the beds to create a High Dependency Unit. As a result, four bedrooms were rebuilt to provide this facility, thereby reducing the overall bed capacity to 16.

In 2020 Linn Dara was registered as a 24 bed unit. This was reduced to 22 beds for refurbishment of the High Dependency Suite.

Currently, Linn Dara have 24 beds, Merlin Park have 17 beds (beds reduced due to COVID -19), Eist Linn have 16 and St Vincent's have 12.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services