



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

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

Deputy Roisin Shortall.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

22 June 2022

**To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the closure of 11 beds in a unit (details supplied); the steps he is taking to reopen these beds in view of growing crisis in the provision of CAMHS services nationally; when he expects these beds to reopen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -  
Róisín Shortall**

***Details supplied: Linn Dara, Child and Adolescent Mental Health unit, Cherry Orchard, Dublin***

---

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

There are 72 CAMHS in-patient beds currently registered across all four CAMHS units in the country with the Mental Health Commission. However, from time to time, the number of operational beds, i.e., those beds available for admissions, can fluctuate below this number based on clinical risk assessment within a specific unit. The decision to temporarily reduce the number of beds from 24 to 13 in Linn Dara CAMHS was not made lightly and has arisen due to continuing difficulties to maintain safe staffing levels in nursing grades on the unit.

The nursing compliment available through the use of permanent and agency staff is no longer sufficient to continue to provide the full 24 inpatient service to a safe standard and level of care. The nursing management team led by the Director of Nursing have been actively engaged in a number of recruitment campaigns, nationally and internationally as well as focused recruitment campaigns targeting nursing graduate programmes. Despite these efforts, the management team in Linn Dara have been unsuccessful in recruiting sufficient numbers to enable the service continue at its full operational capacity.

The issue has not arisen from financial pressures or any other factors other than the availability of suitably qualified nursing staff to provide safe, effective inpatient care. Based on this therefore, and on the advice of the Clinical Director and the senior management team in Linn Dara, the Chief Officer in Dublin South,



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

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

Kildare and West Wicklow (DSKWW) Community Healthcare has informed us of the decision to reduce the number of operational beds on a temporary basis. Extensive efforts will continue to be made at local, national and international levels to recruit nurses into the vacant posts. This temporary action is being taken strictly on the basis that the remaining 13 beds will remain fully operational, are available in a clinically safe and sustainable manner and can continue to function on a 24/7 basis.

In the interim, the HSE held a meeting with all four CAMHS inpatient units and the position was outlined to them. It has been agreed that all areas will work collaboratively in order to maximize the use of existing national CAMHS bed capacity over the coming months while minimizing the impact of reduced beds.

It is expected that the reduction in beds will continue until September when Nursing Graduates become available and a bespoke recruitment campaign is already in place to maximize graduate employment.

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**