



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
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Deputy Catherine Murphy,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

**PQ Number: 27764/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds that are available nationally in CAMHS; if he will provide a breakdown, by CHO area and by hospital and or residential setting; and the number of the shortfall in beds by CHO area - Catherine Murphy**

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

#### **CAMHS In-patient capacity**

<b>CAMHS Unit</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Primary Catchment Area</b>
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)

There are 72 CAMHS in-patient beds currently registered across all four units 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. Examples of such risks would include availability of appropriately trained staff through vacancies and the clinical mix and risks associated with the patients already admitted to the unit (severe challenging behaviours, vulnerable patient group).



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At the current time (30/05/2022), the operational CAMHS beds available are 53 across all four units and are mapped as follows:

**Linn Dara** = 13; reduction from 24 beds due to high levels of nursing staff vacancies. It is anticipated that the closed beds will reopen in Q3/Q4 following a concentrated recruitment campaign directed at nursing colleges, with new nurses graduating in September.

**St Vincents** = 10; reduction from 12 beds due to staff vacancies and physical limitations of the unit as advised by the Consultant Psychiatrist.

**Merlin Park** = 14; reduction from 20 beds due to reconfiguration of 2 x shared bedrooms to single rooms due to COVID-19, nursing staff vacancies and physical ligature risks associated in some bedroom en-suite doors.

**Eist Linn** = 16; No change

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

Yours sincerely,

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