



Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
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5th October 2022.

Mark Ward TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
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Re: PQ ref 47926/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the reopening of CAMHS inpatient beds in a medical setting (details supplied) concerning the plans to get CAMHS beds up to full capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question that you submitted to the Minister for Health, the Minister has requested that the HSE respond directly to you on this matter. I have examined the question raised and the following outlines the position.

In May 2022, the HSE made the difficult decision to temporarily reduce the inpatient capacity at Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Inpatient facility to 13 beds.

The capacity issues are not related to any funding difficulties, but are due to challenges in hiring and retaining nursing staff at levels necessary to operate Linn Dara at full capacity while maintaining the necessary standards of care and safety for patients.

Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Inpatient Facility will continue to process referrals for inpatient admissions. These reductions are reviewed on a constant basis, with the intention to return to full capacity at the earliest opportunity.

Healthcare settings continue to face a challenging recruitment environment. The HSE is actively engaged in comprehensive national and international recruitment campaigns for Psychiatric Nursing staff as well as recruitment from graduate programmes. The HSE continues to explore all avenues to recruit and hire Psychiatric Nursing staff. As recruitment is ongoing, it is not possible to give a specific date when capacity will increase.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you require further details please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Brady, Head of Service Mental Health