



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

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
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Deputy Mattie McGrath,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

02nd November 2022

PQ Number: 52075/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if there is a memorandum of understanding agreement to provide access to private mental health beds in the absence of public beds for children attending CAMHS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mattie McGrath

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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.

In response to the above, I wish to advise that the HSE does not have any Memorandum of Understanding agreements in place with private providers for the provision of private mental health beds for children and adolescents attending CAMHS.

There are four HSE/HSE funded inpatient CAMHS units in the country. CAMHS inpatient units offer assessment and treatment to children and adolescents up to the age of 18, with severe and often complex mental health difficulties. CAMHS inpatient units are known as "Approved Centres" and they are inspected by the Mental Health Commission. This means there are rules and codes of practice and legislation which must be followed by all CAMHS Inpatient Units. These regulations cover physical examination, physical restraint, risk assessment, admission, transfer and discharge from a CAMHS inpatient unit.

Currently there are 72 registered beds with the Mental Health Commission across the four HSE/HSE funded inpatient CAMHS units. At any point in time the number of operational beds, (beds available for admission), can vary below this number due to a number of factors e.g. staffing vacancies, the clinical mix and risks associated with the patients already admitted to the unit (severe challenging behaviours, vulnerable patient group).

The table below provides detail on the number of operational beds in each of the CAMHS inpatient units as at 25th October 2022.



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Unit	Operational Beds as at 25 th October 2022
Merlin Park, Galway	14
Linn Dara, Dublin	13
St Vincent's, Fairview	8
Eist Linn, Cork	16
Total	51

Further information on HSE Inpatient CAMHS can be found in Section 5 of the CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019). Please see link below:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/>

In addition to the above, there will be an additional number of new CAMHS beds which will be located as follows:

Children's Health Ireland

Construction is progressing on the New Children's Hospital which is being developed at the campus of St. James's Hospital in Dublin. The St. James's site ensures that the planned co-location with an adult hospital and, ultimately, tri-location with a maternity hospital, will be delivered. It will accommodate the national specialist eating disorder service with 8 inpatient beds and a 12 bed general inpatient unit. Completion of the New Children's Hospital is planned for 2023.

New National Forensic Hospital

The National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) is a new state-of-the-art facility located in Portrane, North County Dublin. The Service will provide care for 170 patients in the facility as well as community and prison in-reach services. The development will also include a 10 bed secure adolescent inpatient unit.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services