



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,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

27th April 2023

PQ Number: 15776/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health what steps have been taken to end the practice of children being admitted to adult psychiatric inpatient wards; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Violet-Anne Wynne.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after all efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent in-patient units are unsuccessful due to clinical need or capacity. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. On every occasion that a young person requires to be admitted to an adult unit, they are nursed on a 1:1 basis continuously over the 24 hour period as per the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice.

Further information on Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice can be found at the following link:

<https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>



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The number of children admitted to adult mental health units has continued to reduce over time. The table below provides data on the number of child admissions to adult Approved Centres from 2018 to 2022.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of Child Admissions to adult Approved Centres	84	50	27	29	20

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

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