

2nd March 2023

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 6628/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff in Éist Linn, by role, in 2019 and 2023, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

Éist Linn is a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit for young people aged 13 to 17 years of age. It consists of an inpatient unit and dedicated adjoined school. The referral pathway is through the Community CAMHS team and the catchment area includes the counties Cork, Kerry, Waterford, South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford.

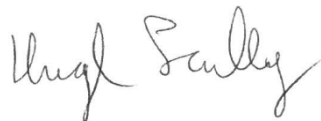
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) staffing and recruitment is impacted by the current shortage of trained Mental Health staff nationally - a trend which is not unique to Ireland. Please see table below in relation to staffing on the unit in December 2019 in comparison to staffing on the unit as of February 2023:

Discipline	WTE-Dec 2019	WTE-Feb 2023
Consultant	2	2
NCHD	2	2
Area Director Of Nursing	1	1
Assistant Director of Nursing	1	1
CNM3	1	1
CNS	4	2
CNM2	4	3
Staff Nurse	18	15
SLT	0.7	0.4
Social Worker	2	1.6
Psychologist	3	1
Occupational Therapist	1.6	.8
Admin Staff	2	2
Multi Task Attendants	2.85	3

With regard to covering the current vacancies, and in particular within the Nursing Discipline, all options remain under consideration at this time including increasing the usage of overtime and agency where available. Service Management have also engaged with their colleagues across the CHOs to exhaust all avenues to secure additional staffing for Éist Linn. It is important to note there is no indication to reduce bed numbers as the bed occupancy within the unit has not been impacted by the current staffing levels at this time.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



Mr. Hugh Scully
A/General Manager
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare