



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 Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

05th April 2023

PQ Number: 8332/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults who have been transferred to inpatient mental health facilities in other countries due to a lack of capacity in the State from 2014 to date in 2023, in tabular form; the number and location of such facilities; and the amount which has been spent on this care for each facility. – Mark Ward

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.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to this Parliamentary Question as contact had to be made with each Community Health Organisation on an individual basis which required a considerable data gathering/searching exercise across the system. In addition contact was made with the HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS). TAS allows for an Irish based public hospital consultant to refer public patients to the public system of another EU/EEA member state for treatment which is not available in Ireland.

Following on from consultation with the Heads' of Service for Mental Health in each of the nine CHO areas, I wish to advise that no children or adults have been transferred to inpatient mental health facilities in other countries due to a lack of capacity in the State from 2014 to date in 2023. Further to my response to your Parliamentary Question Reference **8331/23**, all placements abroad are/were as a result of the specialist nature of services provided abroad and to meet those specialist needs of Service Users. It is important to note that all efforts are made to place Service Users within their local Mental Health Services facilities in the first instance and/or in mental health services in the Republic of Ireland. Treatment abroad is the last available option.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony McCusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services