



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
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Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

08th February 2023

**PQ Number: 4141/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of CAMHS intellectual disability teams in place; the CHOs in which they are in place; the target number of teams; if he will provide an update on their roll-out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Mark Ward**

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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.

The needs of adults and children with intellectual disabilities are generally best met in services such as HSE Primary Care and HSE Disability services. However, people may have moderate or severe mental health difficulties in addition to their intellectual disability, which can mean their treatment needs are more complex. The HSE service best suited to an individual patient is determined by the level of the intellectual disability and of the mental health difficulty.

The mental health policies, *Vision for Change* and *Sharing the Vision*, recommends the development of mental health intellectual disability (MHID) teams, to provide population-wide coverage and ensure fair and equal access to mental healthcare for people of all ages with an intellectual disability. Over the last 18 months there has been a significant recruitment drive in MHID/CAMHS ID services nationally. 31 MDT staff have been employed and there is a recruitment process in place for a further 23 posts.

Based on sectorisation as recommended by *aVFC* and *STV*, there should be 31 adult teams and 16 children's teams nationally. There are however some localities where difficulties in staff recruitment have contributed to areas not developing MHID teams. In those areas, local arrangements are in place such as Consultant Psychiatrists providing a consultative service.

Despite the recruitment, we are some way short of reaching full capacity. Children's services (CAMHS-ID teams) have increased their staff capacity from 14 to 21% over the last 18 months, with adult teams better resourced but a considerable way off full capacity.



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Recruitment issues, especially for Consultant Psychiatrists, are a significant challenge. The reasons for this are complex and multi-agency efforts are in place to address this.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**