



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

16th August 2023

PQ Number: 32570/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 182 of 29 March 2023, if “exceptional circumstances” includes capacity issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Violet-Anne Wynne

Details Supplied: Referred to HSE : Clarification was sought from the Deputy on this PQ and it was confirmed that this is in relation to CAMHS accommodation and is follow on to PQ 15776/23, which was question 361 of 20th April (not 182 of 29 March)

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.

As per my response to your Parliamentary Question, **15776/23**, 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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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services