



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
R: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital,  
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Deputy Paul Murphy,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

2nd August 2023

**PQ Number: 27604/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that adolescent mental health services that parents are being told that there is no funding available for a public bed in a private in-patient adolescent unit; if he will advise why this is the current situation; if funding can be made available; and if so, when – Paul Murphy**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

CAMHS provide specialist mental health service to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health teams, such as moderate to severe anxiety disorders, moderate to severe depression, Bi Polar Affective disorder, Psychosis, moderate to severe eating disorders, self-harm that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health team.

There are four inpatient CAMHS units in Ireland. Eist Linn CAMHS inpatient unit which is situated in Cork, Linn Dara CAMHS inpatient unit which is situated in Dublin South West, Merlin Park CAMHS inpatient unit which is situated in Galway and St Vincent's Fairview CAMHS inpatient unit. Currently 51 of the 72 HSE CAMHS beds are open across the four units as shown in the table below;

**CAMHS Bed Status as of 25/07/2023**

Unit	Registered Beds	Current Operational Beds	Occupied Beds
Eist Linn	16	16	6
Linn Dara	24	13	9
Merlin Park	20	14	9
St Vincent's	12	8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>31</b>



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The current bed reduction is due to staffing shortages with these units. Despite the reduced bed capacity of 51 operational beds, there continues to be available capacity to admit where the young person requires intensive in-patient treatment.

Referral to a CAMHS in-patient units is not suitable or appropriate for everyone and where clinically indicated, avoiding admission is the preferred option. The CAMHS Operational Guidelines (2019) clearly describes the CAMHS in-patient service as well as how a young person is referred for assessment and the process that takes place when considering if the young person requires admission.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/>

It is not appropriate for the HSE to fund a placement in a private setting while there are vacant beds available in the public units.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written over a horizontal line.

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