



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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Deputy Charles Flanagan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

09<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**PQ Number: 11134/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of long-stay patients currently in acute psychiatric units in the State. -Charles Flanagan**

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Dear Deputy Flanagan,

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 National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS) gathers data on patient admissions and discharges from psychiatric hospitals and units throughout Ireland. The Health Research Board (HRB) is responsible for managing this system which is also used to inform the Annual Report on the Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals produced by the HRB.

Unfortunately the information requested in your Parliamentary Question is not available at this time as the HRB collect this data quarterly in arrears. However, I have been advised that at the end of Q3 2022 there were 74 patients with a length of stay of one year or more as at 30/09/2022. Please note that it is possible that some of these patients may have been discharged at some point in Q4 2022 which is not captured in this figure.

Please be advised that the HRB definition of what constitutes long term is 12 months or longer.

Further information on the latest published Annual Report on the Activities of Irish Psychiatric Unit and Hospitals for 2021 can be found here.

[https://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/2\\_Plugin\\_related\\_files/Publications/2022\\_Publication\\_files/NPIRS\\_2022/NPIRS\\_Report\\_2021.pdf](https://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/2_Plugin_related_files/Publications/2022_Publication_files/NPIRS_2022/NPIRS_Report_2021.pdf)

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



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Yours sincerely,

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

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**Tony McCusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**