



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 Paul Donnelly.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

28th April 2023

PQ Number: 14979/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE vacant nursing posts at the National Forensic Mental Health Service; the estimated full-year cost of filling these vacancies; and when these vacancies will be filled, in tabular form - Paul Donnelly.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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 Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) is a new state-of-the-art facility located in Portrane, North County Dublin and is registered as an Approved Centre under the Mental Health Act 2001 and the Criminal Law Insanity Act 2006. In November 2022, the NFMHS relocated from Dundrum to Portrane increasing the capacity of the hospital. Currently, the Approved Centre is registered for 110 beds with 106 beds in operation.

The NFMHS operates the following multi-disciplinary services which includes nursing:

- Forensic Rehabilitation and Recovery Team
- Community Residential Service
- Prison In-Reach Programme
- Court Liaison Service

In addition to the above, plans are in place to increase capacity to 130 beds, develop an Intensive Care Rehabilitation Unit (ICRU) and a forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health in-patient unit on a phased strategic basis. As the service continues to grow and expand so will the requirement for additional staffing, again this will be on a phased basis. Currently there are no significant Nursing vacancies within the Service delivering the current level of Service.



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The HSE'S National Recruitment Services have been running continuous recruitment campaigns for NFMHS to fill vacant nursing posts in existing services. In January 2023, the HR Department in NFMHS took lead responsibility for the recruitment of nurses and campaigns are now ongoing for 2023/2024 to meet the increasing staffing requirements as the service expands.

In the first quarter of 2023, 23 front line Staff Nurses have been recruited for the service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Ryan'.

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services