



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,
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

19th May 2023

PQ Number: 21065/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the plans he has in place to address the issues raised at a conference (details supplied) in relation to people with serious mental health problems detained in prisons; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Mark Ward

Details Supplied: *the Prison Officers Association Annual Conference,*
www.rte.ie/news/2023/0428/1379612-prison-mental-health

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 National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) including the Central Mental Hospital (CMH) relocated from Dundrum to Portrane on 13th November 2022. CMH currently has the capacity for 110 inpatients. In addition to clinical and residential community services, NFMHS also provides a Prison In Reach Programme and Court Liaison Service

It is planned to increase the occupancy of the Central Mental Hospital to 130 beds, on a phased strategic basis. There have been 28 admissions to the Central Mental Hospital following the relocation of the service and at the time of writing there are 19 individuals on the waiting list, with 75% on the waiting list for less than 5 months. NFMHS have a Clinical Governance Framework for review of the waiting list and admissions to the hospital. Admissions are dependent on vacancies within the admission wards, needs of current patients; prioritisation of waiting list based on need and associated risks to individuals and ability for service to admit an individual safely.

Prison In-Reach clinics and Court Liaison Services (PICLS) are provided to persons, who has been admitted to the CMH and returned to the prison under section 18 Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006, individuals who are on the waiting list for admission to CMH or diversion to Community Mental Health Teams or anyone with a severe mental illness who requires psychiatric treatment. Services are currently provided in



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Cloverhill, Mountjoy, Dochas Centre, Wheatfield, Midlands, Castlerea, Arbour Hill, and Cork Prisons The prison in-reach clinics are provided in close cooperation with the Irish Prison Service primary care teams. In addition, the service facilitates diversion from the criminal justice system where possible.

The table below provides the statistics as of end March 2023 for Prison in Reach Services:

Prison Continuity & Aftercare Management (PCAM) Monthly Statistics for March 2023 for all Locations	
Active Patients	373
Patients seen	287
New Patients	96
Patients Reviewed	513 **
Total Discharged	65
<i>*Caseload as of end March 2023</i>	
<i>**Patient Reviewed - patient may be reviewed multiple times</i>	

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services