



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.

31st May 2023

PQ Number: 22699/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he has any plans to reduce the number of CAMHS teams from the current total of seventy-three; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ Number: 22700/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he has any plans to amalgamate some CAMHS teams; and if he will make a statement on the matter -Mark Ward

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.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is a secondary, specialist mental health service for approximately 2% of children and young people who have a moderate to severe mental health difficulty. There are currently 75 community CAMHS teams in operation, which every year collectively receives approximately 20,000 referrals and deliver 225,000 appointments for children and young people who require support. CAMHS is challenged by a growth in demand for services, coupled with the impact of ongoing staff retention and recruitment difficulties.

There has been significant investment in CAMHS over a number of years to meet this increased demand, to enhance staffing and to improve the range of services for children and young people with mental health needs. Currently, there are no active plans to reduce the number of CAMHS teams nationally. The HSE will continue to evaluate and analyse our service delivery models, alongside the Minister and Department of Health to ensure that the children and young people who require the support of CAMHS have access to the best possible service that can be provided within the resources available to us.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background, reading "Derek Chambers".

**General Manager
Policy Implementation
National Mental Health Operations**