



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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Deputy Jim O'Callaghan.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**PQ Number: 24851/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to adult mental health units to date in 2023. -Jim O'Callaghan**

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Dear Deputy O'Callaghan

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.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after all efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent in-patient units are unsuccessful due to clinical need or capacity. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. On every occasion that a young person requires to be admitted to an adult unit, they are nursed on a 1:1 basis continuously over the 24 hour period as per the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice.

Further information on Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>

The number of children admitted to adult mental health units has continued to reduce over time. As at end of April 2023, there has been five child admissions to adult Approved Centres.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

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