



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile  
Phámar,

Office of the  
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Mental Health Operations

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Deputy Thomas Pringle.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

**PQ Number: 38674/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of prisoners awaiting transfer to the Central Mental Hospital from each prison, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the Matter - Thomas Pringle**

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Dear Deputy Pringle,

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. Currently, the CMH has the capacity for 110 inpatients. As of 07th September, there are a total of 22 individuals who are in prison on the waiting list for admission to the CMH.

Given the low numbers reported for each prison (where the value is <5) and in line with Sections 2 and 37[1] of the FOI Act 2014, I have decided to deny access to the exact figures for reasons of patient confidentiality as any breakdown of numbers (where the value is <5), could inadvertently lead to the identification of individuals.

The NFMHS have a clinical governance framework for review of the waiting list and admissions to the Service. Admissions are dependent on vacancies within the admission wards and 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.

Following relocation to Portrane, there have been weekly admissions to the CMH.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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