



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,  
Baile Átha Cliath 20, D20 HK69

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

21st September 2023

**PQ Number: 39271/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the inpatient perinatal mental health unit in St Vincent's Hospital; when this will be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. –Mark Ward**

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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 Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services: Model of Care for Ireland was issued in November 2017. This model recommends the development of a specialist psychiatric Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) in the Ireland East Hospital Group at St. Vincent's University Hospital Dublin's campus, Dublin.

The provision of a 10 bed MBU on the campus of St Vincent's University Hospital is integrally linked to the overall development and expansion of the current approved centre at the Hospital. Consultations are ongoing between the Senior Management Team Mental Health Services in HSE Community Healthcare East, St Vincent's University Hospital and the National Clinical Programme for Perinatal Psychiatry in this regard. Approval has been granted to carry out a comprehensive appraisal to possibly expand Elm Mount Unit to facilitate the MBU. When this has been completed, a more detailed framework and timeline for the development of the MBU will be available.

More information on Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services can be found here: [Specialist Perinatal Mental Health - HSE.ie](#)

Further information on What is an MBU is accessible here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/what-is-a-mother-and-baby-unit-mbu.pdf>



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

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