



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

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

Office of the  
Assistant National Director  
Mental Health Operations

St Lomans Hospital, Palmerstown,  
Dublin 20, D20 HK69

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t: 01-6207304

e: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Deputy Louise O'Reilly  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

24 April 2024

**PQ Number: 13996/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if additional supports and funding will be provided for treatment centres and specialist community services to support those with eating disorders across community healthcare organisations. -Louise O'Reilly**

---

Dear Deputy O'Reilly

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.

In January 2018, the HSE published a National Model of Care (MOC) for Eating Disorders (ED) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. In the absence of a preexisting dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this MOC document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland. Key recommendations include:

- The development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service
- A stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need
- The development of a skilled, trained workforce

The National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders (NCPED) aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018.

These consultant led multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care. Today (March 2023) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development across the HSE 5 Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) and 6 Adult teams.

Between 2016 and 2022 over €8M has been invested in ED teams. 100 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts have been funded to establish Eating Disorders teams and over 80 WTE's were filled on 11th November 2023 before a pause on recruitment was commenced within the HSE.



In the 2024 budget we received funding for two posts to add to CHO6 CAMHS ED team and recruitment has started. From the €10M additional funding announced for Mental Health we are funding five WTEs to commence an adult eating disorder team in CHO7 and one post for the adult team in CHO4. Recruitment will commence shortly.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

---

**Tony McCusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**