



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

02nd August 2024

PQ Number: 32859/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made in addressing the national shortfall of 832 acute psychiatric inpatient beds, as identified by the Specialist Group on Acute Bed Capacity, which was set up to implement Sharing the Vision recommendation 46; the number of acute psychiatric inpatient beds that have been delivered in each of the years since 2020, by location; the number of planned new acute psychiatric inpatient beds, by proposed year of delivery and location; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

Further to the response issued to you in respect of **PQ 30798/24**, as part of the implementation of Sharing the Vision (StV), the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) requested the establishment of a Specialist Group on Acute Bed Capacity. The work of the Specialist Group was to support the delivery of StV recommendation 46, which states:

'An expert group should be set up to examine Acute Inpatient (Approved Centre) bed provision (including Psychiatric Intensive Care Units) and to make recommendations on capacity, reflective of emerging models of care, existing bed resources and future demographic changes, with such recommendations being aligned with Sláintecare.'

The Specialist Group examined provision of mental health beds from a range of sources, including Mental Health Commission reports and a bed census undertaken on 23rd November 2021. This census gathered occupancy data, took account of overall capacity nationally and examined regional differences in bed usage, along with associated and aligned mental health resources.

The Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care recommended an increase in the number of available beds to 50 per 100,000 population. Taking into account both public and private bed resources, the Specialist Group found a national shortfall of 832 acute inpatient beds at the time of the census.



Whereas the census undertaken by the Specialist Group included privately provided acute inpatient beds, the HSE does not routinely collect this data. At the time of the census there were 523 acute inpatient beds provided by private services. The Mental Health Commission maintains a [register of all approved centres](#), including those operated by private or independent providers.

The table below provides an overview of the number of HSE operated adult acute inpatient beds since 2020 and their location. There are 72 registered CAMHS inpatient beds.

Table 1 HSE adult acute inpatient services

		Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23	Mar-24
CHO 1	Cavan General - Unit	25	25	25	25	25
CHO 1	Letterkenny General - Unit	34	34	34	34	34
CHO 1	Sligo Mental Health Services	25	25	25	25	25
CHO 2	UCHG - Unit	50	50	50	50	50
CHO 2	Mayo General Hospital - Unit	32	32	32	32	32
CHO 2	Roscommon General Hospital - Unit	22	22	22	24	24
CHO 3	Ennis General Hospital - Unit	34	39	39	39	39
CHO 3	Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick - Unit	42	42	42	50	50
CHO 4	Cork University Hospital - Unit	50	50	50	50	50
CHO 4	Mercy University Hospital - Unit	50	50	50	50	50
CHO 4	Bantry General - Unit	18	18	18	18	18
CHO 4	St Stephen's Hospital	19	19	19	19	19
CHO 4	Kerry General Hospital - Unit	34	34	34	34	34
CHO 5	St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny - Unit	44	44	44	44	44
CHO 5	Waterford General Hospital	44	44	44	44	44
CHO 6	Cluain Mhuire	23	23	23	28	28
CHO 6	St Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park Unit	34	39	39	39	39
CHO 6	Newcastle Hospital	20	26	26	26	26
CHO 7	St James Hospital - Unit	47	47	47	47	47
CHO 7	Tallaght Hospital - Unit	50	52	52	52	52
CHO 7	Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital - Unit	39	39	39	39	39
CHO 8	Midlands Regional Hospital PL - DOP Unit	36	36	36	36	36
CHO 8	St. Loman's Hospital, Mullingar	21	21	21	24	24
CHO 8	Cluain Lir Care Centre, Mullingar	6	6	6	6	6
CHO 8	Drogheda Department of Psychiatry, Crosslanes	46	46	46	46	46
CHO 9	Connolly Hospital - Unit Pine & Ash Ward	47	47	47	47	47
CHO 9	St Vincent's Fairview - Hospital	36	36	36	36	36
CHO 9	Mater Hospital - Unit	9	9	9	9	13
CHO 9	Ashlin Centre - Joyce Unit	35	38	38	38	38
CHO 9	Ashlin Centre - Sheehan Unit	8	8	8	8	8
	Total	980	1,001	1,001	1,019	1,023

*Lakeview Unit includes 10 beds based in the DOP Portlaoise for Lakeview patients.

*** Please note:**

There were 46 beds in the DOP, Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise of which 10 beds are allocated for patients from Kildare/West Wicklow/Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital. Therefore DOP, Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise is recorded 36 beds and Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital which has 29 beds is recorded as 39 beds when the additional 10 beds in DOP, Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise are included.

The figure of 832 refers specifically to registered acute inpatient approved centre beds across the system both publicly and privately operated. However, it is important to note that in addition to acute beds, a significant number of continuing care beds are also available for people with high levels of needs who require support in an inpatient setting for a considerable period of time. These



specialist inpatient continuing care beds can be found co-located in approved centres alongside acute beds or in separate inpatient continuing care approved centres.

In its report, the Specialist Group recommends a phased approach to address the shortfall in acute bed capacity, taking into consideration regional variances, ensuring a high-quality continuum of care for mental health service users in line with StV recommendations and the wider Sláintecare reform programme.

As outlined in the response in respect of PQ 30798/24, the HSE's Chief Operations Officer has established a Capital Planning Group for Mental Health Services to address issues related to capacity and suitability of premises in the wider context of the overall Mental Health estate. This group has been tasked with:

- Identifying and prioritising mental health capital requirements over the next five to ten years based on existing and future service need, and on regulatory requirements.
- Providing advice on the development of the future financial architecture of HSE Mental Health Services in terms of capital expenditure, including design of capital programmes and changes to the approach to pricing.
- Creating an initial 3-year plan outlining infrastructural works required to achieve infrastructural regulatory compliance in all registered mental health facilities.
- Completing a medium and long-term strategic mental health capital estates plan aligned to the new Health Regions, which supports the implementation of StV.

The Capital Planning Group will take into account the report of the Acute Bed Capacity Specialist Group and its recommendations and include as appropriate in ongoing capital planning.

In parallel with these initiatives to build our overall acute bed capacity in mental health services, work will continue to ensure people who are experiencing difficulties have access to comprehensive and community-based mental health services when they need them. This will involve continued investment in multi-disciplinary Community Mental Health Teams across the life span, building specialist services in the community as part of the ongoing roll-out of national clinical programmes, and enhancement of out of hours crisis resolution services. By building access to specialist care closer to home, these critical service improvements will help reduce avoidable admissions and support individuals in their recovery journey following discharge from an in-patient unit.

In terms of the additional number of inpatient beds delivered since 2020, the National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) relocated from the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum in November 2022, which increased the capacity of the hospital. The table below illustrates the bed capacity in the NFMHS since 2020.

Table 2 HSE National Forensic Mental Health Service

Year	In patient adult beds operational	In patient FCAMHS beds operational	Constructed available beds/ CMH	Constructed available beds ICRU	Constructed available beds FCAMHS
2020	96	0	96	0	0
2021	96	0	96	0	0
2022	96 / ^110	0	130*	0	0
2023	112	0	130	30	10
2024	112	0	130	30	10



^ Initial capacity of 110 beds from 13 November 2022

*Opened the NFMHS facility Portrane 13 November 2022

The Portrane campus includes a new 10 bedded forensic CAMHS unit. In addition, as part of the Children's Hospital Ireland (CHI) development, there will be a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient unit. As part of the national service planning process for 2025, particular consideration will be given to revenue requirements for completed or planned capital developments.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Eyres', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ms Dervila Eyres
Assistant National Director, Head of Operations
Access and Integration
HSE Mental Health Services