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Seirbhís Meabhairshláinte

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28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Ruairí Ó Murchú  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ ref 38775/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the plans for the building of the additional ten bed in the Drogheda department of psychiatry, the timeline for its completion; if he is aware of the 55 WTE vacant posts currently in Louth Meath Mental Health Services; the plans the HSE has to fill these positions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 outlined the position as follows.

Planning permission has been granted for a two storey extension which will include ten additional beds and ancillary works. It is intended that building works would commence in 2025 with a 2 year timeframe for completion.

The 55 WTE vacant posts in Louth Meath Mental Health Services are currently being worked through the Pay Number Strategy (PNS). The PNS involves the resetting of our WTE numbers to match pay budget and service priorities. The PNS was developed through detailed discussions with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform and with the wider Government.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Martina Lennon,  
General Manager, Mental Health Services, Louth Meath