



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí  
Meabhairshláinte FSS

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

9<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**PQ Number: 39838/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to the Exchequer of establishing the first ever in-patient mother and baby mental health unit. -Cathal Crowe**

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Dear Deputy Crowe

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](#)



### Staffing for the unit

Staffing for a 6-10 bedded mother and baby unit is listed in the Royal College of Psychiatrists Report on Perinatal Mental Health Services (CR197, 2015).

Based on the agreed 10 bedded unit, staffing WTEs consist of:

		<u>Salary Mid Point FT</u>
➤ Ward Manager: CNMII (RPN)	1.0 WTE	€65,991
➤ CNMI	1.0 WTE	€56,225
➤ 2 Mental Health Nurses per shift	11.0 WTE	€42,832
➤ 1 child care worker for extended day time hours	2.5 WTE	€45,640
➤ Consultant	1.0 WTE	€229,328
➤ NCHD	1.0 WTE	€70,543
➤ Psychology	1.0 WTE	€100,440
➤ Occupational Therapy	1.0 WTE	€66,101
➤ Social Work <sup>1</sup>	1.0 WTE	€73,320
➤ Ward Clerk/Administrator (GIV)	1.0 WTE	€42,112
➤ Administrator (GV)	1.0 WTE	€53,721

<sup>1</sup>Additional 0.5WTE social worker to provide support and counselling for other children and the family as a whole.

Please note the above figures are calculated on staff costs on the mid salary scale point as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024 as an indication of approximate costs.

Please note the capital cost of providing an MBU has not been estimated yet and will depend on the outcome of a feasibility study which is examining the option of providing an MBU within an extended Elm Mount Psychiatric Unit at SVUH.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**Access and Integration, National Mental Health Services**