



Deputy Heneghan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**PQ Number: 21662/25**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number and location of inpatient beds currently available for adults with eating disorders; the average occupancy rate of each over the past 12 months; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Heneghan,

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 HSE has prioritised eating disorder services as part of National Clinical Programmes (NCPs) and has established a specific clinical programme for eating disorders. The NCPs aim to develop person-centred, integrated care through a clinician-led, evidence-based approach to service reform. The need for specialist services is reflected in Sharing the Vision and more recently in the new Programme for Government. In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence-based treatment from eating disorder (ED)-trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. The HSE's core focus is on developing regional community-based specialist eating disorder services across CAMHS and adult populations (in line with MOC) provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams, through the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders. The table below outlines the teams by HSE Regional area.

#### Eating Disorders Regional teams by HSE Regions

Region /population	Current Eating Disorders Teams
HSE Dublin and North East: (1,187,082 population)	Cavan Monaghan – adult team
	Dublin North City and West – CAMHS Team
	Dublin North County – Adult Team
HSE Dublin and Midlands: (1,077,639 population)	Dublin South City and West/Kildare/West

	Wicklow – CAMHS Team
<b>New 2025</b>	Dublin South West/Kildare – Adult Team in recruitment 2025
<b>New 2025</b>	Midlands - Adult Team in recruitment 2025
<b>HSE Dublin and South East: (971,093 Population)</b>	Carlow Kilkenny/ Tipperary South/Waterford Wexford – Adult Team
	Dublin South and Wicklow – CAMHS Dublin South and Wicklow Adult Team
<b>HSE Mid-West: (413,059 Population) New 2025</b>	CAMHS ED team – Midwest in recruitment 2025
<b>HSE South West: (740,614 population)</b>	CAMHS team Adult team
<b>HSE West and North West: (759,652 population)</b>	CAMHS Team – Galway/Roscommon Adult Team – Sligo/Leitrim/South Donegal

#### Notes on Table

- While we develop specialist teams across areas there are a number of ANPs and other dedicated staff working in Cavan CAMHS, Donegal, Midlands, South Tipperary CAMHS that are preparing sites and attending all our training and education.
- Since the MOC was published (2018) the population has grown, and this will be reflected in any review.

Adults who have an eating disorder diagnosis and require inpatient care can be referred to any of the HSE's acute inpatient mental health approved centres around the country. The HSE funds beds within private hospitals with dedicated eating disorder programmes for adults where recommended by an adult psychiatrist. One Adult Eating Disorder Team also provides care to its catchment area 3 specialist eating disorder beds in St Vincent's University Hospital. The occupancy rate for these beds is 100% and the service operate a waiting list. The HSE does fund a very small number of specialist eating disorder beds via the Treatment aboard Scheme (TAS) where clinically indicated for severe anorexia nervosa and is not routinely used.

A review of adult bed capacity for specialist eating disorders beds is currently underway. This includes a review of data on bed usage in HSE acute hospital, HSE approved centers, private placements and treatment aboard. The NCPED will make recommendations for future plan regarding number and locations of adult eating disorders beds. This plan will be provided to Minister Butler by the end of June 2025. The newly recruited consultant adult psychiatrists in eating disorder teams will be key to informing this plan.

The HSE capital plan has identified the provision of 5 new approved centers, the HSE are working with the HSE Regions to ensure that where appropriate and in line with MOC dedicated eating disorders beds are included in the design brief.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Clinical Design and Innovation**  
**Health Service Executive**