



Office of the Assistant National Director  
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,  
St. Loman's Hospital,  
Palmerstown, Dublin 20  
D20HK69

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísi  
Meabhairshláinte FSS  
Ospidéal Naomh Loman  
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20  
D20HK69

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

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

Deputy Sorca Clarke.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**PQ Number: 37666/25**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to provide a detailed breakdown of the €93 million being spent annually on outsourcing mental health care, including the types of services and providers involved. -Sorca Clarke**

---

Dear Deputy Clarke

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.

**Mental Health Private Placements:**

Private placements are for patients whose needs cannot currently be met within existing statutory services necessitating placements with voluntary or private providers. These placements are often necessary for those with multi-axial disorders, severe eating disorders and children for whom the High Court determines their placement. Since 2015 negotiations of PfG development funding with DoH have included agreement of additional funding towards these costs. In addition to the direct funding for this increased cost, new models of care also supported through PFG funding including Specialist Rehabilitation Units and the Eating Disorder Clinical Programme are reducing the rate of growth by providing more appropriate responses to meeting the needs of this service user group. These models, in design and planning since 2016, have started to take effect and will continue as new services are implemented through funded posts and/or non-statutory providers. The main providers of these services include Nua Healthcare, Bloomfield, Talbot, Highfield and Simplicitas.

**Treatment Abroad Scheme:**

In general the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) provides for the funding of public patients referred to Another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland for public healthcare which is not available in Ireland. In some instances particularly in respect of specialist mental health services it is not always possible to source the treatment in the public system abroad. In such circumstances and on a strictly case by case basis the HSE will consider approving costs of healthcare in the private healthcare sector abroad and only where the patient would have been approved via TAS funding if the treatment was available in the public healthcare system abroad.



Private Placements		
RHA	2024 spend €m	
HSE Dublin and Midlands	22.2	
HSE Dublin and North East	19.7	
HSE Dublin and South East	19.2	
HSE Midwest	3.1	
HSE South West	3.6	
HSE West & North West	8.9	
National Forensic Service	2.8	
Mental Health placements total	79.7	Note 1
Treatment abroad scheme	13.0	Note 2
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>92.62</b>	
<p>Note 1 - paid from Mental Health care group budget, The table above outlines the spend in private placements for 2024 excluding National office service arrangements for Specialist Rehabilitation Unit beds (with Bloomfield &amp; Highfield S39 org's) and RHA Dublin South East Saint John of God service arrangement with SJOG private hospital for outsourced bed capacity as these are not considered private placements.</p>		
<p>Note 2 - paid from central treatment abroad scheme budget</p>		

While each Private Placement is specific to the individual needs of the service user, the majority of services being provided are residential placements around the following complex presentations as listed below (some being short term placements):

- Enduring Mental Health
- Specialist Rehabilitation Beds (SRU's)
- Treatment of psychotic and mood systems of enduring mental illness
- Personality Disorder
- Schizoaffective Disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Complex needs-requires specialist placement with structured environment
- Autism
- Dementia
- Huntington's Disease



## HSE Mental Health Providers

Mental Health placements - provider listing			
Providers	No of clients	Provider status	% of total
Nua Healthcare	125	For profit company	32%
Bloomfield Hospital	69	Non profit charity	18%
Highfield Healthcare	43	For profit company	11%
Talbot group	39	For profit company	10%
Galro	6	For profit company	2%
Rehabcare	5	Non profit charity	1%
Camphill communities of Ireland	5	Non profit charity	1%
Simplicitas	4	For profit company	1%
St Andrews UK	3	Non profit charity	1%
Dundas Ltd	3	For profit company	1%
Praxis care	3	Non profit charity	1%
Gheel Autism Services	2	Non profit charity	1%
Other (Note 1)	78		20%
	385		100%
<p>Note 1 - includes a number of individual entities including Nursing homes whereby fair deal clients with Mental Health care requirements are placed in nursing homes with top up payments paid to nursing homes for additional care. Also includes short term care in St Patricks Healthcare facility.</p>			

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tony McCusker**  
**General Manager**  
**Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services**