



Bainisteoir Ginearálta, An Lú, An Mhí
Seirbhís Meabhairshláinte

Coimhleasc N. Bríd,
Bóthar Cheanannais,
Baile Átha Fhirdia, Co. Lú. A92 DRN0

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7th August 2025

Peadar Tóibín TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ - 41254/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to provide extra psychiatric capacity at a facility (details supplied), given the fact that people are being sent home for the lack of capacity; and if she will end the practice of sending patients home with serious mental health challenges in taxis.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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 outlined the position as follows.

Louth Meath Mental Health Services advise that all service users who attend the Drogheda Department of Psychiatry (DDOP) are clinically assessed prior to any discharge taking place. All decisions to discharge are clinically based. This decision takes into consideration the service user's mental health presentation along with any presenting risks. Appropriate follow up supports available in the community are also considered to this end.

Louth Meath Mental Health Services would like to provide assurance that no service user is ever turned away from the DDOP due to a "lack of capacity". The DDOP currently consists of a 46 bed integrated acute admission unit on the campus of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Planning permission has been granted at DDOP for a two-storey extension, which will include ten additional beds and ancillary works. The expected start date of the building and ancillary works will be no later than quarter 2 of 2026, with an estimated timeframe of two years for completion.

In circumstances where a family member is unable to collect a service user at discharge (which can occur for a variety of reasons), the service user may be provided with transport to their home address - by taxi, paid for by the service. All policies and procedures are robustly reviewed by local governance groups within the DDOP to ensure practices are in line with current legislation and best practice.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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