



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8

Office of the National Clinical
Advisor and Group Lead for Mental
Health

HSE, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8,
DO8 W2A8

www.hse.ie
@hselive

e: ncagl.mentalhealth@hse.ie

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

2nd September 2025

PQ Number: 41758/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the projected capital and staffing cost for the development of a dedicated mother and baby unit. -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.

The *Model of Care for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services* (2017) provides for the development of a national network of services, including six hub sites and thirteen spoke sites which are now in operation. The Model of Care recommends the development of a specialist Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) on the campus of St Vincent's University Hospital. This development is integrally linked to the overall expansion of the current approved centre at the Hospital. Approval has been granted to carry out a comprehensive appraisal of options, and a more detailed framework and costing will only be possible once a final site solution has been agreed.

Capital costs for any such development are subject to a range of project-specific variables including site conditions, enabling works, location, regulatory requirements and market conditions at the time of tender. HSE Estates has advised that, for planning purposes, the estimated cost of new acute mental health beds is in the region of €830,000 to €960,000 per bed, subject to tender price inflation.

Staffing requirements for a 6–10 bedded MBU are informed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists' report on Perinatal Mental Health Services (CR197, 2015). Based on a 10-bed model, indicative staffing costs are estimated at approximately €3.1 million annually, inclusive of pay, PRSI, and non-pay allowances. Final costs will vary depending on discipline, grade, and pay awards which occur on a regular basis.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive