



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

Date: 07.08.2025

**PQ Number: 41864/25**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the date by which she expects all 20 new specialist eating disorder beds to be fully operational and accepting patients. -Sorca Clarke**

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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.

Inpatient services are one element of a stepped model of care and will be most cost effective and efficient when aligned with specialist adult community eating disorder teams who can provide day programmes. This will ensure shortest required length of stay, increased inpatient capacity and improved clinical outcomes. Therefore the NCPED continues to have a focus on developing adult community eating disorder teams and day programmes which will be essential to the functioning of inpatient services.

A review of adult bed capacity for specialist eating disorders beds has been completed. This included a review of data on bed usage in HSE acute hospitals, HSE approved centers, private placements and treatment aboard. The review has made a number of recommendations for future plan regarding number and locations of adult eating disorders beds. This plan was provided to Minister Butler recently and is currently under review by the Department of Health. A timeline for the build, fit out and staffing of any additional beds is not currently available.

In the interim 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 HSE does fund a very small number of specialists eating disorder beds via the Treatment aboard Scheme (TAS) where clinically indicated for severe anorexia nervosa and is not routinely used.

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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Dr Amir Niazi

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