



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

Date: 07.08.2025

PQ Number: 42243/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the locations of twenty new specialist eating disorder inpatient beds announced by Government on 21 July 2025, and for details of staff recruitment including time-frames associated with this provision. -Liam Quaide

Dear Deputy Quaide,

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.

The staffing numbers and multi-disciplinary skill mix will be determined by the number of beds and international best practice. All staff recruited will be aligned with NCPED education and training programme and will be skilled in evidence based interventions. Staff recommended for the inpatient unit may rotate through all levels of this stepped care approach. Staffing cost vary depending on discipline and grade and pay awards which occur on a regular basis. It is unfortunately not possible to provide such specific costs at this point.

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 specialist 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,

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