



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: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS

Ospidéal Naomh Loman
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20
D20HK69

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

e:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

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

11th June 2025

PQ Number: 30673/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health when and in what facility in Ireland electro-convulsive therapy was last used as a mental health treatment for minors. -Liam Quaide

And

PQ Number: 30674/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the details of the use of electro-convulsive therapy as a mental health treatment for minors since 2010, namely frequency and in what settings. -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.

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), as defined by the Mental Health Commission, is a medical procedure in which an electric current is passed briefly through the brain via electrodes applied to the scalp to induce generalised seizure activity. The person receiving treatment is placed under general anaesthetic and muscle relaxants are given to prevent body spasms. The purpose of ECT is to treat specific types of major mental illnesses.

Section 59 of the Mental Health Act 2001 (the "2001 Act") as amended by the Mental Health (Amendment) Act 2015 (the "2015 Act"), obliges the Mental Health Commission to make rules providing for the use of electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) on a patient. A "patient" under the 2001 Act (as amended) is construed in Section 14 and refers to a person to whom an admission (or renewal) order relates. The 2001 Act (as amended) provides that ECT may only be administered to a patient with the patient's written consent. The 2001 Act (as amended) also provides that where the patient is unable to give consent, ECT must be approved by the consultant psychiatrist responsible for the care and treatment of the patient and another consultant psychiatrist following referral of the matter to him/her by the first-mentioned psychiatrist.

The Mental Health Commission prepared Rules that came into force on 1st November 2006. An independent review of the Rules was carried out between September and December 2008 which involved extensive stakeholder consultation. The Rules were revised to take account of the recommendations arising from the review and the amended Rules came into effect on 1st January



2010. Following the implementation of the 2015 Act, ECT can only be administered to a patient without consent where it has been determined that the patient is unable to give consent to the treatment. ECT shall not be administered to a patient who is unwilling to give consent. The Rules have been revised to take into account the 2015 Act. The date of commencement of these Rules is 15th February 2016.

Further information on the rules governing the use of ECT and the Mental Health's Commission Code of Practice on the Use of ECT for Voluntary Patients can be found at the following links:

[Rules Governing the Use of Electro-Convulsive Therapy.pdf](#)

[Code of Practice on the Use of Electro-Convulsive.pdf](#)

In relation to the data requested in your Parliamentary Questions above, this data is already in the public domain and is collected by the Mental Health Commission (MHC). The MHC monitors and records data on the use of ECT in Mental Health Approved Centres. The MHC publish a report each year with key findings encompassing how often ECT was used, the people who received it, the services providing it and the quality and safety of those services. Data is broken down nationally by sector and by individual service. Links to the available reports are below:

[ECT Report 2023 FINAL.pdf](#)

[The Administration of Electro-convulsive Therapy in Approved Centres Activity Report 2022_0.pdf](#)

[ECT Report 2022 FINAL 15.12.22.pdf](#)

[ECT Report 2022 FINAL 15.12.22.pdf](#) (2021 Report)

[ECT-Report-2020.pdf](#)

[ECT-Activity-Report-2019.pdf](#)

[9161 Mental Health Commission \(MHC\) Electro-Convulsive Therapy report.indd](#) (2017 & 2018 Report)

[ECT rpt 2016.pdf](#)

ECT Reports from 2010 to 2015 and any further information can be requested directly from the MHC at the following email address: info@mhcirl.ie

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Braham
Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services