



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
e:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

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

2nd July 2025

PQ Number: 35182/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the review of the mental health service for the deaf; when the review report is expected to be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - 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.

An evaluation of the Liaison Mental Health Service (LMHS) for the Deaf was completed in January 2025, as per recommendation 62 of *Sharing the Vision*, the national mental health policy. An external agency was commissioned to carry out this evaluation and a report was submitted to the Social Inclusion Workstream of Sharing the Vision in April 2025. The report was also shared with the relevant NGO stakeholders who had participated in the evaluation. The report is an internal working document and while it will not be published it will be available electronically on request.

The evaluation found that the LMHS is a valuable and effective service in providing Deaf-aware, culturally competent mental health care. A number of recommendations were made in the report. A comprehensive national needs assessment should be undertaken to identify the true demand for Deaf mental health services nationally. This needs assessment should consider the demographics within the Deaf community and explore how demand for specialized services may evolve due to technological advancements. Other recommendations focus on data-driven service planning, operational improvements, strategic leadership transitions, and cost-effective national outreach, ensuring LMHS remains a vital support system for the Deaf community in Ireland.



A HSE working group is now being convened to consider and address these recommendations. A key part of this process will be to engage and work with our NGO partners, especially regarding a national needs assessment.

Yours Sincerely,

General Manager – Policy Implementation
Access and Integration Mental Health Operations