



Deputy Claire Kerrane.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

31st March 2025

PQ Number: 10888/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health when funding will be provided for the planned 20 new beds for those suffering with eating disorders that were originally intended to open between 2018 – 2023. -Claire Kerrane

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in response to the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE has prioritised eating disorder services as part of National Clinical Programmes (NCPs) and has established a specific clinical programme for eating disorders. The NCPs aim to develop person-centred, integrated care through a clinician-led, evidence-based approach to service reform. The need for specialist services is reflected in Sharing the Vision and more recently in the new Programme for Government. In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence-based treatment from eating disorder (ED)-trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. The HSE's core focus is on developing regional community-based specialist eating disorder services across CAMHS and adult populations (in line with MOC) provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams, through the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders. The table below outlines the teams by HSE Regional area.

Eating Disorders Regional teams by HSE Regions

Region /population	Current Eating Disorders Teams
HSE Dublin and North East: (1,187,082 population)	Cavan Monaghan – adult team
	Dublin North City and West – CAMHS Team
	Dublin North County – Adult Team
HSE Dublin and Midlands: (1,077,639 population)	Dublin South City and West/Kildare/West Wicklow – CAMHS Team

New 2025	Dublin South West/Kildare – Adult Team in recruitment 2025
New 2025	Midlands - Adult Team in recruitment 2025
HSE Dublin and South East: (971,093 Population)	Carlow Kilkenny/ Tipperary South/Waterford Wexford – Adult Team
	Dublin South and Wicklow – CAMHS Dublin South and Wicklow Adult Team
HSE Mid-West: (413,059 Population) New 2025	CAMHS ED team – Midwest in recruitment 2025
HSE South West: (740,614 population)	CAMHS team Adult team
HSE West and North West: (759,652 population)	CAMHS Team – Galway/Roscommon Adult Team – Sligo/Leitrim/South Donegal

Notes on Table

- While we develop specialist teams across areas there are a number of ANPs and other dedicated staff working in Cavan CAMHS, Donegal, Midlands, South Tipperary CAMHS that are preparing sites and attending all our training and education.
- Since the MOC was published (2018) the population has grown, and this will be reflected in any review.

In terms of current in-patient Service provision, Children and young people with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of four regional CAMHS inpatient approved centres. These are: Linn Dara Approved Centre, Dublin, St Josephs Approved Centre in Dublin, Eist Linn Approved Centre in Cork and Merlin Park Approved Centre in Galway. All four CAMHS units manage and treat ED cases that are admitted when treatment in the community is not indicated. Two of the four units can provide additional care up to and including nasogastric feeding (NG). The other two units are actively training nursing staff and recruiting dietician staff that will enable them to also administer NG feeding treatment plans within their respective units as well.

As part of the new CHI hospital development, there will be additional beds as part of a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient approved centre which will be collocated within the new children's hospital.

Currently there are three specialist Eating Disorder beds based at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin for adults with eating disorders who are in need of inpatient admission. In other parts of the country, 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. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. It is also important to note that people with eating disorders who are medically unstable and require medical admission for acute medical stabilisation, and those who require intensive initial refeeding, including nasogastric feeding, are admitted to HSE acute and general hospitals.

A review of adult bed capacity for specialist eating disorders beds is currently underway by the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders. This includes a review of data on bed usage in HSE acute hospitals', HSE approved centres', private placements and treatment abroad. The NCPED will make recommendations for future plan regarding the number and location(s) of adult eating disorders beds. The plan, when complete, will be presented to Minister Butler. This review is expected to be complete by year end.



In parallel, a new Mental Health Capital Planning Group has been established to examine approved centre bed capacity across the country and this group will also consider the expansion of adult eating disorder beds.

It is important to note that the HSE, in exceptional circumstances, funds beds within private hospitals in Ireland with dedicated eating disorder programmes for adults when recommended by an adult psychiatrist. The HSE also funds a very small number of specialist eating disorder beds via the Treatment aboard Scheme (TAS) where clinically indicated for those with severe anorexia nervosa.

Further information on the HSE National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders can be found here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Braham
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Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services