



Deputy Pádraig Rice.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

08th May 2025

PQ Number: 13352/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute psychiatric inpatient beds delivered in 2024 and to date in 2025, by site, in tabular form. -Pádraig Rice

Dear Deputy Rice,

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.

Policy Context

A Vision for Change: Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy - VfC (2006) set out a ten-year policy framework for Ireland's mental health services. It recommended that interventions should be aimed at maximising recovery from mental illness, building on service user and social network resources to achieve meaningful integration and participation in society. One of the fundamental principles of a VfC was a move from institutional to community-based care. The policy advocated for a move towards predominantly community-based care delivered by multidisciplinary teams. In line with this policy, and indeed international best practice, a number of old psychiatric hospitals in the country closed due to the outdated nature of such facilities.

'Sharing the Vision - A Mental Health Policy for Everyone' published in June 2020 replaced a VfC. StV focuses on outcomes and adopts a lifecycle approach by placing the individual at the centre of service delivery at different stages across the lifecycle. It also aims to enhance the provision of services and supports across a continuum of care, including:

- mental health promotion
- prevention and early intervention
- acute and specialist mental health services

The continued development of Mental Health Services in Ireland over the past 30 years and in line with Government policy has been aimed at:

- Modernising Mental Health Services that historically were centred on institutional care by creating a mental health system that focuses on the requirements of the individual
- Promoting positive mental health at all levels of society, intervening early when problems develop, and providing accessible, comprehensive and community-based Mental Health Services for those who need them



- Taking a person-centred approach with a focus on enabling and supporting the recovery journey of each individual, based on clinical advice and best practice, as well as lived experience
- Increasing the participation of service users, families, carers and supporters in the design of mental health services
- Enhancing the provision of accessible, comprehensive and community-based mental health services in line with the principles of *Slaintecare ensuring that the right care, is delivered in the right place, at the right time.*
- Enhancing the capacity of primary care services to respond to mental health needs, in which specialist mental health services are not required
- Continued investment in mental health services including the development of Crisis Resolution Services

The '*Model of Care for Crisis Resolution Services*' was developed as a direct recommendation of Sharing the Vision, Ireland's national mental health policy. It arose from the recognition that people who are experiencing mental health crisis need specialist services to provide brief intensive supports in a timely way to assist them in their recovery journey.

There are two key service components in Crisis Resolution Services:

- **Crisis Resolution Teams** play a vital role by providing intensive mental health interventions and support in the patient's home and the community as an alternative to a hospital admission. Evidence from practice indicates service users and carers value, and benefit from home and community interventions and supports. The Crisis Resolution Team use the skills of the multidisciplinary team to assess the service user's needs and to develop an individual care plan that supports the individual service user on their recovery journey.
- Solace Café teams provide an out-of-hours friendly and supportive community crisis prevention and crisis response service in the evenings and at weekends in a café style/non-clinical safe environment. The café service, Solace Café, will support individuals and their family members/carers to manage their mental health and well-being by providing clear supports and effective signposting to services provided by the HSE and other third sector and statutory providers.

Mental Health Inpatient Beds

Notwithstanding the policy mandate prioritizing capacity for care in the community, and in response to the Deputy's question (as per the response issued to you in respect of **PQ Number: 13353/25**), 1,022 acute adult inpatient approved centre beds were available across the HSE in 2024. In addition to this there are 72 registered Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) inpatient beds nationally.

The HSE National Service Plan 2025 has committed to expand the bed provision of the Central Mental Hospital by 18 beds to 130.

In terms of further additional mental health beds planned, there will be a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient unit as part of the Children's Hospital Ireland (CHI) development.



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Chambers
General Manager (Policy Implementation)
HSE Access & Integration: National Mental Health

Please Note: The Deputy may wish to consult with the response issued to him in respect of PQ Number: **13353/25** which outlines the number of acute psychiatric inpatient beds delivered in 2024 in tabular form.