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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
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Deputy Pádraig Rice.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

17th April 2025

PQ Number: 13353/25
PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the current number of acute psychiatric inpatient beds, 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.

As part of the implementation of *Sharing the Vision - A Mental Health Policy for Everyone* (StV), the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) requested the establishment of a Specialist Group on Acute Bed Capacity. The work of the Specialist Group was to support the delivery of StV recommendation 46, which states:

'An expert group should be set up to examine Acute Inpatient (Approved Centre) bed provision (including Psychiatric Intensive Care Units) and to make recommendations on capacity, reflective of emerging models of care, existing bed resources and future demographic changes, with such recommendations being aligned with Sláintecare.'

The Specialist Group examined the provision of mental health beds from a range of sources, including reports from the Mental Health Commission and a bed census undertaken on 23rd November 2021. This census gathered occupancy data, took account of overall capacity nationally and examined regional differences in bed usage, along with associated and aligned mental health resources.

Taking into account both public and private bed resources, the Specialist Group found a national shortfall of 832 acute inpatient beds at the time of the census. It is worth noting that the Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care recommended an increase in the number of available beds to 50 per 100,000 population.

Whereas the census undertaken by the Specialist Group included privately provided acute inpatient beds, the HSE does not routinely collect this data. At the time of the census there were 523 acute inpatient beds provided by private services. The Mental Health Commission maintains a [register of all approved centres](#), including those operated by private or independent providers.



The table below provides an overview of HSE registered bed numbers for acute adult inpatient units as at Q3 2024. In addition to this there are 72 registered Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) inpatient beds nationally.

Table 1: HSE adult acute inpatient services

IHA	Acute Admission Unit	Registered Beds
Dublin North West	Connolly Hospital - Unit Pine & Ash Ward	47
Dublin North Central	St Vincent's Fairview - Hospital	36
	Mater Hospital - Unit	13
Total Dublin North Central		49
Dublin North	Ashlin Centre - Joyce & Sheehan Units	46
Cavan/Monaghan	Cavan General - Unit	25
Louth/Meath	Drogheda Department of Psychiatry, Crosslanes	46
Total HSE Dublin & North East (Area A)		213
Dublin South City	St James Hospital - Unit	47
Dublin South West and West	Tallaght Hospital - Unit	52
Kildare/West Wicklow	Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital - Unit	39
Laois/Offaly	Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise - DOP Unit	36
Longford/Westmeath	St. Lomans Hospital, Mullingar	24
Longford/Westmeath	Cluain Lir Care Centre, Mullingar	6
Total HSE Dublin & Midlands (Area B)		204
Dun Laoghaire	Cluain Mhuire	28
Dublin South East	St Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park Unit	39
Wicklow	Newcastle Hospital	26
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny - Unit	44
Waterford/Wexford	Waterford General Hospital	44
Total HSE Dublin & South East (Area C)		181
South Lee	Cork University Hospital - Unit	50
North Lee	Mercy University Hospital - Unit	50
West Cork	Bantry General - Unit	17
North Cork	St Stephen's Hospital	19
Kerry	University Hospital Kerry - Unit	34
Total HSE South West (Area D)		170
Clare/North Tipperary	Acute Psychiatric Unit, Ennis General Hospital, Co. Clare	39
Limerick	APU 5B, University Hospital Limerick	50
Total HSE Mid-West (Area E)		89
Donegal	Letterkenny General - Unit	34
Sligo/Leitrim	Sligo Mental Health Services	25



Galway	UCHG - Unit	50
Mayo	Mayo General Hospital - Unit	32
Roscommon	Roscommon General Hospital - Unit	24
Total HSE West & North West (Area F)		165
National		1,022

Please note the following:

* Bantry General, West Cork has reduced bed capacity from 18 to 17 beds after refurbishment.

** There are 46 beds in the Dept of Psychiatry, Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise of which 10 beds are allocated for patients from Kildare/West Wicklow/Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital. Therefore Department of Psychiatry, Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise is recorded as 36 beds and Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital which has 29 beds is recorded as 39 beds when the additional ten beds in DOP, Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise are included.

The national figure of 1,022 HSE operated beds above refers specifically to registered acute adult inpatient approved centre beds in the HSE. However, it is important to note that in addition to acute beds, a significant number of continuing care beds are also available for people with high levels of needs who require support in an inpatient setting for a longer period of time. These specialist inpatient continuing care beds can be found co-located in approved centres alongside acute beds or in separate inpatient continuing care approved centres.

In 2024, the HSE's Chief Operations Officer established a Capital Planning Group for Mental Health Services to address issues related to capacity and suitability of premises in the wider context of the overall Mental Health estate. This group is tasked with:

- Identifying and prioritising mental health capital requirements over the next five to ten years based on existing and future service need, and on regulatory requirements.
- Providing advice on the development of the future financial architecture of HSE Mental Health Services in terms of capital expenditure, including design of capital programmes and changes to the approach to pricing.
- Creating an initial 3-year plan outlining infrastructural works required to achieve infrastructural regulatory compliance in all registered mental health facilities.
- Completing a medium and long-term strategic mental health capital estates plan aligned to the new Health Regions, which supports the implementation of StV.

In terms of immediate short-term bed capacity improvements (3-5 years), the Capital Planning Group completed a Mental Health Approved Centre Priority Sites Capital Planning Report in October 2024. This followed the MHC's Annual Reports (2021 and 2022) which found that some Approved Centres had consistently failed to comply with the provisions of the Mental Health Act 2001 and related regulations due to the condition and overall design of their premises. The recently published MHC Annual Report (2023) has similar findings. In July 2024, the CEO of the HSE met with the CEO of the MHC and agreed to provide a capital plan for 5 identified Approved Centre sites that are at critical risk of enforcement action and deemed a priority for replacement/refurbishment in the coming years.



The 5 priority sites identified for replacement/refurbishment are:

- Lakeview Approved Unit (Naas General Hospital - Kildare)
- Jonathan Swift Clinic (St James Hospital - Dublin)
- St Michael's Unit – (Mercy University Hospital - Cork)
- Department of Psychiatry (Roscommon University Hospital)
- St Aloysius Ward (Mater Misericordiae University Hospital & St Vincent's Hospital Fairview – Dublin)

In addition, under the new HSE Regional Structures, the Regional Executive Officers (REOs) where the critical sites are located have been asked to consider the Acute Bed Capacity-Report of the Specialist Group, Sharing the Vision (2024) when developing their Approved Centre replacement or refurbishment plans.

In parallel with these initiatives to build our overall acute bed capacity in mental health services, work will continue to ensure people who are experiencing difficulties have access to comprehensive and community-based mental health services when they need them. This will involve continued investment in multi-disciplinary Community Mental Health Teams across the life span, building specialist services in the community as part of the ongoing roll-out of national clinical programmes, and enhancement of out of hours crisis resolution services. By building access to specialist care closer to home, these critical service improvements will help reduce avoidable hospital admissions and support individuals in their recovery journey following discharge from an acute in-patient unit.

In terms of the additional number of inpatient beds delivered since 2020, the National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) relocated from the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum in November 2022, which increased the capacity of the hospital. Table 2 below illustrates the bed capacity in the NFMHS since 2020.

Table 2: HSE National Forensic Mental Health Service

Year	In patient adult beds operational	In patient FCAMHS beds operational	Constructed available beds/ CMH	Constructed available beds ICRU	Constructed available beds FCAMHS
2020	96	0	96	0	0
2021	96	0	96	0	0
2022	96 / [^] 110	0	130*	0	0
2023	112	0	130	30	10
2024	112	0	130	30	10

[^] Initial capacity of 110 beds from 13th November 2022

*Opened the NFMHS facility Portrane 13th November 2022

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 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