



25th March 2025

To: Deputy Sorca Clarke

Email: sorca.clarke@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 9226/25 and PQ 10046/25

To ask the Minister for Health to clearly outline the governance structure for mental health under the new HSE structure; the senior accountable officer in the HSE responsible for mental health governance and policy on the HSE management team; the regional and integrated healthcare area governance and management structure for mental health, including funding control and coordination of care; the specific posts that are relevant; and if each Integrated healthcare area will have a head of mental health with responsibility for the operation of mental health in the integrated healthcare areas and a dedicated budget for this purpose.

- Sorca Clarke (sorca.clarke@oireachtas.ie)

A key deliverable of the Health Region Implementation Plan approved by Government in July 2023 was the development and implementation of a new Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) model for Health Regions. A detailed process of co-design, informed by the HSE Change Guide approach was undertaken during 2023 and 2024 resulting in the ISD model, which was approved at the Health Region Governance Group in December 2024.

This new model is aligned to the Slaintecare objectives; 1, to support a population-based approach to service planning and delivery and 2, to integrate hospital-based and community-based services to deliver joined-up, integrated care for patients and service users. The new HSE governance and management structures at all levels are being developed based on this model. One of the objectives is to ensure care group services are integrated at a population level.

Under the new structures, the senior accountable officer in the HSE responsible for all health & social care services including Mental Health within their Health Region is the Regional Executive Officer. The six Regional Executive Officers, appointed in March 2024 sit on the HSE Senior Leadership Team reporting directly to the HSE Chief Executive Officer.

Within each Health Region, there are 2 – 4 Integrated Healthcare Area Managers, who came into post in October 2024. Each IHA Manager is responsible and accountable for all health & social care services within their geography including mental health services and including funding control and coordination of care.



Within the model, there will be an IHA Manager with lead responsibility for Mental Health services in each region and a Manager at Head of Service grade with lead responsibility for Mental Health services in their IHA.

An interim structure is currently in place in the regions which maintains the existing Heads of Service for each care group including Mental Health reporting to IHA Managers until the full and safe transition to the new IHA geography-based structures is complete. The Implementation phase commenced on 3rd of March and is expected to take up to six months.

Yours sincerely,

Damien McCallion

Chief Technology and Transformation Officer & Deputy CEO