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18th January 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: neasa.hourigan@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 2795/22– National Gender Services

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons treated by the National Gender Service in each of the years 2018 to 2020 and 2021 respectively; and the number of persons currently on a waiting list to access their services.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the National Gender Service, St. Columcille’s Hospital Loughlinstown, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that based on the current audit and available clinical data the response to these questions are as follows:

What is the number of persons treated by the National Gender Service in each of the years 2018 to 2020 and 2021 respectively?

A Model of Care for the National Gender Service was developed by the HSE Mental Health Division in 2016 and approved by the Ireland East Hospital Group Steering Group for the Development of a National Gender Service in 2018. Since this Model of Care was implemented (in Q4 2018) the following activity has been registered:

1. Assessment Referrals Closed (initial assessment for hormones) = 486
2. Assessment Referrals Closed (initial assessment for surgery) = 161
3. Review Appointments in 2020 = 579
4. Review Appointments in 2021 = 864

During this time there were between two and four assessors available to see people on the waiting list for initial assessment – this number is increasing in 2022 with business cases submitted to further expand the assessment team to meet incoming demand.

The number of review appointments included scheduled reviews only and does not include ad hoc or emergent reviews from the mental health team, social work or Endocrinology.

What is the number of persons currently on a waiting list to access services?



Declan Lyons, Chief Executive /
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Grúpa Ospidéal
Oirthear na hÉireann



Demand for the Service has increased year on year since establishment to a current referral rate of over 30 referrals per month (i.e. 360+ per year).

As of January 2022, there are 861 people on the waiting list for initial assessment. As well as demand for initial assessment the complexity of care needs is also increasing, especially in terms of autism, functional impairment and social adversity. This results in an increasing demand on the multidisciplinary team.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Gallagher'.

Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery



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