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19th March 2021
Deputy John Lahart
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 12427/21
To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to adult mental health units to date in 2021. - John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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.

The latest available data to the end of January 2021 indicates that there was no child admission to adult units. This is compared to a total of 27 child admissions to adult units in 2020.

HSE mental health services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it will continue to be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent In-Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. All such admissions are also notified to a National CAMHS Lead Manager within Mental Health.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me

Yours sincerely,

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Thomas O'Brien
General Manager Mental Health Services

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