



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

T 01 6207304 R: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20  
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

April 9<sup>th</sup> 2021

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan

Dail Eireann,

Dublin 2.

**PQ 13840/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to address the shortcomings in the mental health services with particular reference to north County Kildare and the need to provide for those seeking institutional care or specific treatment not currently readily available in Ireland and or local access to psychology services without waiting prolonged periods of time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan**

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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 the body responsible for implementing most of the recommendations in *Sharing the Vision*, the HSE are in the process of establishing an appropriate structure with managerial, clinical and operational representation to ensure delivery of its actions on an ongoing basis. The purpose of the HSE Implementation Group is to provide strategic advice, leadership, and guidance for developing and implementing evidence-based approaches to priority actions described in *Sharing the Vision*. The policy recommends examining current acute bed provision for those with complex mental health needs as a priority. One of the main priorities identified in the policy is to establish a working group to examine bed capacity in Ireland and consider the nature of mental health service provision for the population. The group is expected to explore international research to develop targeted service development plans that address bed occupancy and provision.

In 2021, additional funding for COVID emergency bed purchase in Private hospitals and further funding for ongoing purchase of external beds/long term care is agreed. An oversight group has been established to progress this work. To date, HSE Mental Health has undertaken a review of Approved Centres in our 9 CHOs and CMH to identify individuals with a longer-term care need. The oversight group has completed engagements with several service providers, and a tendering process is underway.

Primary Care Psychology would be best placed to answer or local access to psychology services.

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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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Brien'.

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Thomas O'Brien  
General Manager Mental Health Services