



Cheann na Seirbhíse,
An Príomh-Ospidéal Meabhair-Ghalar, An
tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Meabhairshláinte
Fhóirínseach

Diméin Phort Reachrann, Port Reachrann,
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath. K36 FD79

Head of Service
Central Mental Hospital, National
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Portrane Demesne, Portrane,
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Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

7 February 2024

PQ Number: 48275/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of prisoners, by gender with acute mental health issue on the waiting list for transfer from prisons to the Central Mental Hospital for treatment; the length the longest person on the waiting list is waiting for such a transfer; the reason for the delay in providing this urgent medical care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Éamon Ó Cuív

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

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 National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) relocated from Dundrum to Portrane on 13th November 2022. Currently, the NFMHS has operational capacity for 114 inpatients.

The NFMHS have a clinical governance framework in place for reviewing the waiting list and admissions to the hospital. Admissions are dependent on vacancies within the admission wards and the needs of current patients. The waiting list is prioritized based on need and any associated risks to individuals as well as the ability of the service to admit an individual safely.

Given the low numbers reported for each prison (where the value is <5) and in line with Sections 2 and 37[1] of the FOI Act 2014, I have decided to deny access to the exact figures by gender for reasons of patient confidentiality as any breakdown of numbers (where the value is <5), could inadvertently lead to the identification of individuals. However I can advise that as of the 2nd November 2023, there are a total of 23 individuals who are in prison awaiting admission to the NFMHS. The wait times varies from 6 to 14 months with the majority of individuals on the waiting list for less than 6 months.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bergin
Head of Service
National Forensic Mental Health Services