



Oifig an Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Colm Burke.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

27th February 2024

PQ Number: 48791/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health what contingency measures his Department has in place in relation to cancellation of appointments with CAMHS psychiatrists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide specialist mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of multi-disciplinary mental health teams.

As per my response to your **Parliamentary Question 48789-23**, most, if not all, CAMHS teams have a Consultant Psychiatrist as well as a Senior Registrar or Registrar who works under the supervision of the Consultant Psychiatrist and is available to provide cover for CAMHS appointments when required. However, in situations where absence is planned for a longer term, then another Consultant from another team may be requested to provide clinical supervision to the Senior Registrar and/or Registrar.

In addition, for longer term absences, a Locum Consultant Psychiatrist to cover the clinical case load may be sought. The oversight responsibility for medical manpower cover rests with the Clinical Director and/or Executive Clinical Director in consultation with the Head of Services for Mental Health in each CHO area to ensure that appropriate medical cover is provided.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Braham
Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)
HSE Community Operations - Mental Health Services