



Ceann Seirbhíse, Meabhairshláinte
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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**Mark Ward TD,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20.**

24th November 2023

Re: PQ 50635/23

To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the number of operational eating disorder beds in Linn Dara; when capacity will be restored; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

I refer to the above parliamentary question that you submitted to the Minister for Health, the Minister has asked that the HSE respond directly to you. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Linn Dara approved centre continues to provide specialist treatment for children and adolescents with severe eating disorders, including the provision of nasogastric feeding. At any one time up to 6 inpatients will be receiving treatment for a severe eating disorder.

Referral for admission are processed in line with the CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019). The Linn Dara unit participates in a weekly national tele call of all 4 CAMHS inpatient units, other units will offer admission in cases where a bed is unavailable in the unit for that catchment area.

The health services continue to face challenges in recruiting necessary staff. The HSE is currently running national and international recruitment campaigns for Psychiatric Nursing staff, and we are also seeking to recruit from graduate programmes. We are exploring every possible avenue to recruit and hire Psychiatric Nursing staff.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Kevin Brady,
Head of Service Mental Health,
HSE Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare**