



Ref: PQ 50636/23

12th February 2024

Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Ward

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ 50636/23 – To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the eating disorder unit in the new children's hospital; how many eating disorders beds are included in the plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

There will be a dedicated 20 bed child and adolescent psychiatry inpatient unit in the new children's hospital. This 20 bed compliment will be under the governance of the HSE (not Children's Health Ireland (CHI)). These beds will form part of the national compliment of child and adolescent psychiatry inpatient beds as recommended by the Vision for Change Report in 2006.

The planned bed distribution of the child and adolescent psychiatry inpatient beds is that 8 beds will be dedicated to the inpatient treatment of children and adolescents with eating disorders and 12 dedicated to the care of children and young people with mental illness requiring inpatient care. As mentioned, these beds are part of the national allocation for child and adolescent psychiatry inpatient care.

If, on presentation to the new children's hospital, a child or young person is acutely physically unwell as a consequence of their eating disorder, the child or young person will be admitted to a medical or surgical inpatient ward, as appropriate, within the new children's hospital. Their medical or surgical condition will be looked after by the medical and/or surgical paediatric teams and the child or young person's mental health needs will be addressed by the liaison child and adolescent psychiatry service within the hospital.

If, when the child or young person's medical or surgical condition has stabilised, and all appropriate medical or surgical investigations and treatments have been completed, and it is felt that the child or young person requires an inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry admission for treatment of their eating disorder, discussion will then be had with the inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry service as to the most appropriate location for this i.e., in the

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire
Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97 Ireland

new children's hospital child and adolescent psychiatry inpatient unit or in one of the community child and adolescent psychiatry inpatient units.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Turlough Bolger', written in a cursive style.

Turlough Bolger
Clinical Director for Paediatrics
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Our **Mission** is to: Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We will do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

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