



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

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

01<sup>st</sup> March 2024

**PQ Number: 7109/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health about the capital plan working group tasked with the development of a ten-year plan to address the existing and future capital requirements within mental health; who is on this working group; how often they will meet; when such a plan will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward**

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Dear Deputy Ward,

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 current position.

Implementation of government policy on mental health, *Sharing the Vision* is overseen by the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee which has broad membership and reports quarterly to the Minister for Mental Health. This policy together with our legislative responsibilities under the MHA (2001) and to the regulator, the Mental Health Commission (MHC) sets the aim for multi-annual capital planning.

The commitment to the delivery of this aim is evidenced by the annual scale of capital investment in providing modern fit for purpose mental health approved centres and in the co-location where possible of community mental health services in purpose built primary care centres across the country.

Mental health capital infrastructure projects are included in the overall HSE Capital Plan produced annually. This itemises projects currently progressing through various stages of design, tender & construction. The current capital plan for mental health consists of approximately 45 individual projects.

Although the existing mental health capital plan identifies current priorities, there is a need to also address emerging infrastructural needs as evident from recent MHC Annual Reports for current Approved Centres. The Mental Health Act is also being revised and it is indicated that there will be additions to the regulatory authority of the MHC to include Community Residences.

The work of the Mental Health Capital Planning Group, which was established in Q4 2023, is aligned to the principles of the HSE's Capital & Estates Strategy.



The key phased work objectives of the Mental Health Capital Planning Working Group are to:

1. Ensure there are governance arrangements and oversight structures in place to ensure that the investments are appropriately managed and effectively utilised. This will be closely monitored and advised by the changing structures in the national centre and CHOs in 2024.
2. Complete an initial assessment of existing registered mental health facilities in relation to infrastructural regulatory compliance (i.e. MHC) and report on same. Create a detailed plan, on a facility-by-facility basis, outlining infrastructural works required to achieve infrastructural regulatory compliance to all registered facilities. The plan will include an implementation plan with key milestones, which will demonstrate how improvements in compliance are being made.
3. Complete a medium and long term strategic mental health capital estates plan aligned to the new Regional Health Area structures and which supports the Implementation plan of Sharing the Vision, Acute Bed Capacity Review, the new Mental Health Act, and the Mental Health Commission’s CAMHS report while being cognisant of financial allocations.

The Mental Health Capital Planning Group will report directly to the Capital Steering/Oversight Group, which is in the process of being established. The roles/background of the core membership of the Mental Health Capital Planning Group are outlined in table 1 below. The group is co-chaired by the Assistant National Directors (AND) for Mental Health Operations and the AND for Change, Planning and Delivery and has key representation from National HSE Estates and CHO operational management. The group meets on a fortnightly basis.

**Table 1: Mental Health Capital Planning Group Membership**

Sector/Department	Responsibilities
Assistant National Director National Mental Health Operations	Co-Chair Ensure communication flow to National Director Community Operations, the Chief Operations Officer, Dept of Health, NIMC and HIG <sup>1</sup> .
Assistant National Director Change Planning and Delivery – Disability and Mental Health Services	Co-Chair Ensure communication flow to National Director Change & Innovation, Chief Strategy Officer and Dept of Health
Assistant National Director (Capital & Property), HSE Capital & Estates	Core Group Member: Expert Estates direction and advice for the delivery of objectives
Senior Operations Manager National Mental Health Operations	Core Group Member: Expert lead on programme management and stakeholder engagement. Provide links to StV work-stream leads, which have capital requirements.
National Clinical & Group Lead (NCAGL)	Core Group Member: Provision of expert advice and guidance to ensure objectives and plans align with the delivery of CCPs and StV recommendations.
General Manager (Regulation) National Mental Health Operations	Core Group Member: Support and liaison for compliance and link to CHOs & MHC. Provision of access to business supports for objective 2
Mental Health Engagement Representative	Core Group member: provision of voice of service user and SU experience of MH infrastructure and design.



Head of Service-mental Health CHO/REO Rep	Core Group Member: Expertise on needs and experience of service delivery in CHOs
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The immediate priority of the Mental Health Capital Planning Group is to complete key work objectives 1 & 2 as described above within the context of a significant organisational transformational change that is happening in the HSE. In parallel to this, work is already progressing in relation to the short-medium term capital projects (0-5 years) which are encompassed within the current mental health capital plan.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

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**Ms Dervila Eyres**  
**Assistant National Director, Head of Operations**  
**HSE Mental Health Services**