



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
Forensic Mental Health Service

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Date: 1st February 2024

Mr Mark Ward, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Email: mark.ward@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 3409/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of people in prison currently awaiting transfer to the Central Mental Hospital from each prison; the average time that prisoners awaited transfer to the CMH in 2023, including maximum and minimum lengths of time, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, 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) including the Central Mental Hospital (CMH) relocated from Dundrum to Portrane in November 2022 increasing the capacity of the hospital. The Approved Centre currently has operational capacity of 112 beds. Following the transition to Portrane, admissions have occurred on a weekly basis.

In 2023, twenty-nine (29) patients in prison were placed on the Central Mental Hospital waiting list. During this period, 2023, twenty-six (26) patients in prison were admitted to the Central Mental Hospital. Of the twenty-six (26) patients the maximum waiting time was nine months and the minimum waiting time was less than one month. The average waiting time was 9.35 weeks. The number of patients in prison currently awaiting transfer to the Central Mental Hospital is eighteen.

The table below provides the information requested:



Total Number of People Currently awaiting transfer from prison	Average time awaiting transfer - 2023	Maximum time awaiting transfer - 2023	Minimum time awaiting transfer- 2023
18	9.35 weeks	Nine months	Less than 1 month

Please be advised the CMH have a clinical governance framework for review of the waiting list and admissions to the hospital. Admissions are dependent on vacancies within the admission wards, needs of current patients; prioritisation of waiting list based on need and associated risks to individuals and ability for service to admit an individual safely.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bergin
Head of Service
National Forensic Mental Health Service