



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Paul Murphy,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin

21st August 2024

PQ Number: 32958/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of establishing and running Ireland's first mother and baby unit for mothers undergoing mental health issues. -Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

The Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services: Model of Care for Ireland was issued in November 2017. This model recommends the development of a specialist mental health Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) in the Ireland East Hospital Group at St. Vincent's University Hospital Dublin's campus, Dublin. The provision of a 10 bed MBU on the campus of St Vincent's University Hospital is integrally linked to the possible overall development and expansion of the current approved centre at the Hospital. Approval has been granted to carry out a comprehensive appraisal to possibly expand Elm Mount Unit to facilitate the accommodation of an MBU. On completion of this appraisal, a more detailed framework and timeline for the development of the MBU will be available.

Staffing for the Unit

Staffing for a 6-10 bedded mother and baby unit is listed in the Royal College of Psychiatrists Report on Perinatal Mental Health Services (CR197, 2015).

Table 1 Based on the agreed 10 bedded unit, staffing WTEs

Role	WTE	Salary Mid Point
Ward Manager	1.0	€65,991
CNMI	1.0	€56,225
Mental Health Nurses	11.0 (2 per shift)	€42,832
Child care worker	2.5 (to cover extended day time hours)	€45,640
Consultant	1.0	€229,328
NCHD	1.0	€70,543
Psychology	1.0	€100,440



Occupational Therapy	1.0	€66,101
Social Work ¹	1.5	€73,320
Ward Clerk/Administrator (GIV)	1.0	€42,112
Administrator (GV)	1.0	€53,721
Total	23.0 WTE	€846,253

¹Additional 0.5WTE social worker to provide support and counselling for other children and the family as a whole.

Please note:

1. The above figures are calculated for **staff costs on the mid salary scale point** as of the 1st of January 2024, as an indication of approximate costs.
2. Costs exclude Employers PRSI at 11.15% and a further non pay cost of 10%

Please be advised that the capital costs of providing an MBU has not yet been estimated and will depend on the outcome of the feasibility study currently examining the option of providing an MBU within an extended Elm Mount Psychiatric Unit at SVUH.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
HSE Access and Integration - Mental Health