



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
Baile Átha Cliath 20, D20 HK69

Office of the
Assistant National Director
Access and integration

St Lomans Hospital, Palmerstown,
Dublin 20, D20 HK69

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

e:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Patricia Ryan.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

17th September 2024

PQ Number: 36029/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of inpatient mental health beds dedicated to older people in the year 2020 and 2024; the number of these beds that are operational; the number of additional beds that are required, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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 HSE does not have a 'live' bed type database for mental health beds. On the night of the 23rd November 2021, the HSE undertook a bed census to gather occupancy data on Acute Adult and Continuing Care beds in HSE-approved centres nationally. On the night of the census 63 acute beds were identified as Older Adult bed types. This highlighted that the provision of dedicated acute mental health beds for older people was only 50% of that recommended by *A Vision for Change*.

In response to this, as part of the implementation of Sharing the Vision (StV), our national mental health policy, the policy's National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) requested the establishment of a Specialist Group on Acute Bed Capacity. The work of the Specialist Group included examining Acute Inpatient (Approved Centre) bed provision (including Psychiatric Intensive Care Units) and to make recommendations on capacity, reflective of emerging models of care, existing bed resources and future demographic changes, with such recommendations being aligned with Sláintecare.'

Taking into account both public and private bed resources, the Specialist Group found a national shortfall of 832 beds across the spectrum of care (intensive care, acute, rehabilitation & community residential) including beds for older persons at the time of the census. The Specialist Group recommended a phased approach to address this shortfall, taking into consideration regional variances to ensure a high-quality continuum of care for mental health service users in line with StV recommendations and the wider Sláintecare reform programme.



The requirement for further acute beds for older adults has also been incorporated into the overall development and implementation of capital plans for the improvement of mental health services nationally.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'M'.

Tony McCusker
General Manager
Access & Integration: Mental Health Services