



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

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1st March 2021
Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 7463/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the inpatient perinatal facilities available for mothers and babies for mental health supports; 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 Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There is no Mother and Baby Unit on the island of Ireland. Mothers who need inpatient care are currently admitted to acute psychiatric units. The Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service Model of Care (published Nov. 2017) recommended that a mother and baby unit be developed in Dublin in the Ireland East Hospital Group. This would serve as a national tertiary referral unit.

This recommendation was based on the population of the greater Dublin area (Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow) of 1.8 million projected to increase to 2.2 million by 2031 (Dublin, Chamber of Commerce 2017). This site was chosen as it would be easily accessible via the M50 and N11. It was recommended that the unit should have the capability of expanding to 10 beds if the need emerges in due course. It is proposed it be sited in the psychiatric unit based in St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. It would provide 6-10 beds for use nationally and be part of the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service based in the National Maternity Hospital.

The focus in 2018 was in establishing the 6 SPMHS Hub Sites (in the 3 Dublin Maternity Hospitals and in UMHL, CUMH and GUH). Planning for Ireland's first Mother and Baby Home began in 2019 and meetings were held with St. Vincent's Hospital, CHO6, HSE Estates and members of the SPMHS. A business case was developed and approved.

Follow up meetings with St. Vincent's hospital were postponed by the estates office there when the Covid-19 pandemic began. It is hoped that the required meetings to progress this much needed facility will take place in Q3 2021, covid permitting.

This project will require significant capital investment and to date no specific funding has been made available to the project as it is still being scoped by the parties mentioned above.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amir Niazi".

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive