



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

13th April 2023

PQ Number: 14709/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if the mother-and-baby inpatient perinatal mental health unit will be in place in Q4 of 2024, as outlined in Sharing the Vision; if a site has been chosen; when it is expected to open; 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.

The Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services: Model of Care for Ireland was issued in November 2017. This model recommends the development of a specialist psychiatric 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 overall development and expansion of the current approved centre at the Hospital. Consultations are ongoing between the Senior Management Team Mental Health Services in HSE Community Healthcare East, St Vincent's University Hospital and the National Clinical Programme for Perinatal Psychiatry in this regard. Approval has been granted to carry out a comprehensive appraisal to possibly expand Elm Mount Unit to facilitate the MBU. It is expected that this appraisal will commence in quarter two of 2023. When this has been completed, a more detailed framework and timeline for the development of the MBU will be available.


More information on Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services can be found here: [Specialist Perinatal Mental Health - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/what-is-a-mother-and-baby-unit-mbu.pdf)

Further information on What is an MBU is accessible here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/what-is-a-mother-and-baby-unit-mbu.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services