



National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead Mental Health  
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Deputy Mark Ward.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**PQ Number: 25435/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated current and capital cost of implementing the Government's plan for inpatient and outpatient perinatal mental health care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward**

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Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, 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 (MOC) 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 plan to locate the MBU in SVUH, as recommended in the MOC, is at the appraisal stage with a feasibility study due later this year. There is some way to go before any accurate estimate of costs could be provided.

There are no dedicated inpatient beds for women with perinatal mental health problems in Ireland and if they require inpatient admission they are either admitted to their catchment area hospital or to a private hospital. There would be a considerable amount of work in determining how many women each year are admitted for inpatient care throughout the country and the actual total revenue cost of this which would vary in each setting.

Part 2 refers to the capital costs of outpatient care. Specialist perinatal mental health outpatient clinics provided by the multidisciplinary teams are held in the 6 hub sites across the country in a variety of settings. There is significant pressure on space in all the services. Currently, there is no specific capital plan yet for dedicated outpatient facilities for the SPMHS.

Further information on Specialist Peri Natal Mental Health Services can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/specialist-perinatal-mental-health/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amir Niazi', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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