



Robert Kidd,  
AND, Acute Operations, HSE

11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Office of National Clinical Director, National Lead for Integrated Care,**

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

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**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cliniciúil Náisiúnta, Cheannaire**

**Náisiúnta um Chúram** Comhtháite, Dearadh agus

Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, Baile Átha

Cliath 8 D08 W2A8

Dear Robert,

I am writing on foot of the report sent to yourself by the Gender Service based in IEHG and which, itself is on foot of your request for data on their service activity.

The report outlines a number of areas of concern to me:

1. The service refers to themselves as the National Gender Service and I'm not sure where the title 'National' derives from; was it agreed with Acute Operations at the time of the allocation of funding in 2016? By way of reference, this service is not included in the group's list of national services (page 11, Section 5 Healthcare delivery: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/serviceplans/service-plans-2019/operational-plans-2019/ireland-east-hospital-group-operational-plan-delivery-plan-2019.pdf>)
2. There is an allusion to an updated Model of Care developed between IEHG and St. John of Gods in 2018; this MoC did not go through any clinical design approval or governance structure in the HSE.
3. There was a Model of Care developed by Dr. Philip Crowley, QID, HSE, between 2014 and 2016, to which a MoC developed by IEHG and SJOG was appended. This is not alluded to in this report.
4. The report suggests a change in the model of delivery, with a move of the Adolescent MHS to SJOG from its current planned location in CHO 7- this has not been supported by the NCAGL Mental Health, who has confirmed to me that he has not agreed to and is not supporting to this move.
5. There is no mention of the service that is delivered to younger people in CHI, nor has a move of that service been mooted with the NCAGL Children and Young People. I am not clear how the service in IEHG proposes to engage with CHI or what the vision for integrating the service is. It would be good to receive clarifications in this regard from an integrated and whole-of-system perspective for this patient cohort.
6. There is no mention of the recommendations of the Steering Committee on the Development of HSE Transgender Identity Services 2020, which was set up on foot of a request by the then Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris and approved by the appropriate governance channels in the HSE prior to being sent to the Minister.

In summary, this briefing takes no account of national HSE governance structures; the bespoke IEHG/SJOG-specific Model of Care mentioned has not been approved through the current recognised and well-established CCO clinical approval and governance-operating model in the HSE. I do not consider at this stage that we can view this service appropriately as a 'National' service, as I have not received evidence to validate



government or HSE recognition of this status, further evidenced by the IEHG Operational Plan (2019) referenced earlier. Supporting evidence to this effect would be very beneficial.

Until this IEHG-SJOG Model of Care has been agreed through the appropriate channels, that is, via the NCAGL Acutes, to the CCO Forum and there has been appropriate engagement with the HSE Clinical and Operational leads, we cannot support the development of the service.

The clinicians in IEHG have been advised by the HSE CEO to engage with Dr. Amir Niazi and myself to develop their services; they have not engaged with me or with the NCAGL Acutes in developing their Endocrinology Services, and appear to be disregarding the advice of the NCAGL MH in this document.

I am extremely supportive of developing services for those with Transgender healthcare needs, but we must ensure it is done in a way that is fully integrated, in line with National Healthcare Policy and agreed through the appropriate governance structures.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siobhán Ní Bhriain".

Dr. Siobhán Ní Bhriain, MCRN: 15579,  
National Clinical Director & National Lead for Integrated Care,  
Clinical Design and Innovation,  
Office of the CCO.