



Ms. Roisin Shortall, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

General Manager Primary Care,  
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation  
Dublin North City & County,  
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,  
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**PQ 40087/19 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of child psychologists working in the health service in the Dublin 11 area; the average waiting time for a child to access a child psychologist in Dublin 11; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Roisin Shortall**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 have provided the information requested below.

The Dublin 11 geographic area is served by two Primary Care Teams based in Dublin North West (DNW) and Dublin North Central (DNC). Primary Care Psychology Services currently have 0.4 WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) working in the Dublin 11 area with 1 WTE vacancy. Referrals are prioritised by date of receipt and the waiting time ranges between 12 months and 31 months dependent on various factors including age, catchment area, team etc.

In relation to Social Care, there are also two Disability Teams, DNW and DNC, providing multidisciplinary intervention in the Dublin 11 area. Due to the nature of how multidisciplinary teams provide care, it is not possible to provide the number of child psychologists dedicated to the Dublin 11 area alone. I have therefore provided the number providing intervention across both DNW and DNC.

In Dublin North West (DNW), there are currently 2.8 WTE child psychologists providing services and 1.7 WTE vacancies. In Dublin North Central (DNC), there are 2 WTE child psychologists providing services and 2 vacancies for maternity leave. Again, referrals are prioritised by date of receipt with waiting times ranging from 4 months to 22 months dependent on various factors including age, catchment area, team etc.

The Primary Care Psychology Service holds advice clinics at both Wellmount Health Centre and Ballymun Healthcare Facility twice monthly. Parents can contact either of these clinics at the numbers below to book an appointment to discuss their concerns about their child. The clinic does not provide any assessment or therapy function and is for parents only. **Wellmount Health Centre Psychology Advice Clinic – 01 8567700 / Ballymun Healthcare Facility Psychology Advice Clinic – 01 8467109**

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Michelle Forde**  
General Manager  
Primary Care