

Community **Healthcare West**

Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte

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31st October 2019

Ms. Anne Rabbitte TD The Hub St. Brendan's Street Portumna Galway

of 0-4 months, 4-8 months, 8-12 months and 12 months +,

PQ 43207/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for access to CAMHs in CHO2 in each County by periods (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Rabbitte,

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.

To date, Community Healthcare West through the hard work and commitment of CAMHS staff have provided an excellent service to the vulnerable young people referred to them from Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. This has been done without the necessity of introducing a waiting list system. However, an increase in demand for the HSE CAMHS Service over recent times, along with the current HSE recruitment pause due to wider service funding pressures, has resulted in delays in the recruitment of some healthcare staff, including CAMHS. Consequently, Community Healthcare West CAMHS has had to introduce waiting lists. We will continue to keep this issue under close review to see what flexibility may exist in this evolving situation to ensure that young people access the local CAMHS service as quickly as possible. It is our intention that the new funding provided by Government for Mental Health in 2019, including for CAMHS in Galway, is fully utilised. All aspects of Mental Health services, including CAMHS, are being improved by the HSE under its annual Service Plan.

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

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Meehan Head of Mental Health Services Community Healthcare West

