

14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

Mr. Johnny Guirke T.D.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 20689/20**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting on the CAMHS waiting list in counties Meath and Westmeath by county; the average waiting time; the number waiting more than six months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Johnny Guirke

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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 outline response as follows.

**Meath CAMHS:**

Sector Team	Average Waiting Time	Number waiting over 6 months
South Meath (Trim)	7 months	33
North Meath	8 months	15
Ashbourne	4 months	3

Staff recruitment and retention remains a factor.

COVID19 has become a factor since March 2020 for all services however, all referrals to CAMHS are assessed and those deemed urgent priority are being offered appointments. Telehealth consultations have also been introduced recently and provided to families.

Some children on the waiting list are awaiting an ADHD Assessment, a number of which have been delayed by school closures. New assessment tools have been sourced to help improve this situation while waiting for schools to reopen and these are due to be introduced shortly.

**Westmeath CAMHS:**

The CAMHS service in Westmeath is arranged into two difference sectors, North Westmeath and South Westmeath, the information requested is outlined for these two sectors in the table below:

Sector Area	Number Waiting	Number waiting over 6 months
North Westmeath	8	5
South Westmeath	12	2

The waiting period for an appointment for an urgent referral is ordinarily 48 hours.

The Mental Health Services in CHO 8 are working proactively to manage the CAMHS waiting lists for our CAMHS service.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



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Joe Ruane  
Acting Chief Officer CHO Area 8