



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

30th September 2020,
Deputy Bernard J. Durkan,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number 24096/20

To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which he plans to facilitate ready access to mental health services in respect of children and adults in all areas nationwide without exception; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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 the following outlines the position.

The table below provides data on access to CAMHS services at the end of August 2020.

CAMHS Waiting List		Reporting Period August 2020						
Total no. to be seen or waiting to be seen by CAMHS		≤ 3 months	>3-≤ 6 months	>6-≤ 9 months	>9- ≤12 months	>12- ≤15 months	>15- ≤18 months	> 18 months
	Total waiting	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
National Total	2,157	825	403	445	257	123	53	51
CHO 1	354	105	47	75	51	39	22	15
CHO 2	39	26	11	2	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	184	40	41	46	35	13	2	7
CHO 4	321	104	60	60	36	25	17	19
CHO 5	131	71	26	22	12	0	0	0
CHO 6	406	180	54	83	63	26	0	0
CHO 7	132	81	19	20	7	3	2	0
CHO 8	393	162	81	86	30	14	10	10
CHO 9	197	56	64	51	23	3	0	0



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It may be useful to note that there are two types of referral to CAMHS; an urgent referral and a routine referral. Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high risk presentations are seen as soon as possible and this is often within 24 to 48 hours. This may impact on wait times for cases that are considered, by a clinician, to be less severe. The CAMHS referral teams meet every week to review all referrals and to assess the risk to the young person.

Waiting lists vary according to Community Healthcare Organisation where although some areas have relatively short waiting lists regrettably waiting times are longer in other counties. The reasons for differences around the country relate to availability of specialist CAMHS clinicians, current vacancies and difficulties in recruiting in an international context. CAMHS wait lists are also related to capacities in other parts of the system where young people may not receive early intervention and thus their needs escalate necessitating referrals to CAMHS.

71.2% of referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams were offered a first appointment within 12 weeks in August 2020. 89% of urgent referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams were responded to within three working days in August 2020.

In General Adult Mental Health Services over 90% of new or re-referred cases were offered an appointment within 12 weeks in August 2020. In Psychiatry of Later Life services 98% of new or re-referred cases were offered appointment within 12 weeks in August 2020.

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

Yours Sincerely

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services