

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Deputy Peadar Toibín,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref no. 9095/21**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting appointments under the National Counselling Service in County Cork; the waiting times for each service for CaPA, CIPC and counselling for former residents of mother and baby homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Toibín,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above extensive list of Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In relation to HSE Mental Health Services, access to counselling services is provided through Counselling in Primary Care. This service is available for people over the age of 18 years, or those who hold a medical card and who experience mild to moderate psychological difficulties. It is a short-term counselling service that provides counselling sessions with a professionally qualified and accredited Counsellor/Therapist.

Those who experience moderate to severe mental health issues can also access a psychosocial nurse through their GP and they will typically be seen within two weeks or sooner if the referral is deemed urgent.

Please see below table which outlines waiting lists in Cork Mental Health Services for CiPC (Counselling in Primary Care) and Harbour Counselling Service:

<b>Harbour Counselling and CiPC, National Counselling Service – Waiting times for Counselling in Cork as of 28th Feb 2021</b>				
<b>Wait Time to Screening/Assessment - Monthly</b>	<b>CAPA</b>	<b>CIPC</b>	<b>Mother and Baby Homes</b>	<b>Totals</b>
< 1 month	5	29	0	34
> 1month < 3 months	2	16	0	18
> 3 months <6 months	0	2	0	2
> 6 months	0	5	0	5
>12 Months	0	0		0

<b>Offered and Waiting by Choice/Need</b>				
< 3 months	3	55	1	59
> 3 months < 6 months	19	37	2	58
> 6 month <12	15	26		41
> 12 Months	11	23		34
<b>Wait Time for On-going Counselling</b>				
< 3 months	17	See above Waiting for Assessment and Screening		17
> 3 months < 6 months	11			11
> 6 months <12 months	2			2
> 12 months	3			3
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>284</b>

Clients waiting for Counselling in CiPC are waiting for assessment which once completed are allocated for counselling. Clients waiting for assessment will then proceed to counselling.

Clients waiting by choice have all been offered either phone or teletherapy because of Covid-19 but have selected to wait for Face to Face sessions which has been delayed and postponed because of Covid-19.

Kind regards,




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**Mr Kevin Morrison**  
**Acting Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**