

20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Deputy Pdraig O Sullivan**  
**Dáil Éireann,**  
**Dublin 2**

**PQ Number: 44967/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the CAMHS waiting list in CHO4; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy O Sullivan,

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.

CAMHS services are designed for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health disorders. All referrals received to CAMHS services are triaged in a timely manner and the referral is either accepted or rejected at that point. Referrals accepted are waitlisted in order of clinical priority and waiting lists vary across each sector based community team. Routine referrals are waitlisted as is the standard procedure and urgent referrals are responded to within seven days in line with national KPI's.

There are a total of eight sector based community mental health teams in Cork and two sector based teams in Kerry, supported by Eist Linn, Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit.

The below table shows the total number on the waiting list across these teams December 2020 when compared to January 2020. As can be seen from the table below, there has been a 32% reduction in the total waiting list for these teams from 663 in January 2020 to 448 in December 2020.

Name of Team	January 2020	December 2020
South Lee 1	60	33
South Lee 2	15	16
South Lee 3	94	44
South Lee West Cork	17	17
South Kerry	90	60
North Kerry	34	43
North Lee East	31	12
North Lee West	21	37
North Cork	136	145
North Lee North	155	41
<b>Total CHO</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>448</b>

In addition to the significant reduction seen across the overall waiting list for these teams, there has been a targeted approach to reduce the length of time a young person is on these lists, this has resulted in a 42% reduction in the total number of young people waiting > 12 months from 165 in January 2020 to 98 in December 2020.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to take a proactive approach with a focus on reducing CAMHS waiting times and identifying and establishing a plan to manage wait lists in each of our sector based CAMHS teams. We are committed to continuing our efforts to ensure that better access to a safe and effective service is delivered

I trust this clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



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**Mr Hugh Scully**  
**A/General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**