



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
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Teil: 061 461435/461313

Office of Head of Service
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
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Mr. Cathal Crowe, TD
4 Francis Street,
Ennis,
Co. Clare
V95 W9NP

29th March 2021

Re: PQ 13357/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health if CAHMS and the mental health services of the HSE in County Clare have psychologists, counsellors and dieticians specifically trained to support adolescents and teenagers that are battling with eating disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Crowe,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question and wish to advise of the following.

The HSE CAMHS resource in County Clare is currently provided by two CAMHS multi-disciplinary teams serving two different catchment areas within the county. CAMHS is a service for children and young people with moderate to severe mental health difficulties which includes a remit for children and young people with eating disorders.

In addition to the clinical skills, knowledge and expertise possessed by qualified clinicians across all disciplines on these teams, in-service training is provided on an ongoing basis to all disciplines as appropriate and in so far as is possible and includes the clinical training provided through the National Clinical Programme-Mental Health- Eating Disorders Services (HSE).

Of note, staffing recommendations for community-based Multi-disciplinary CAMHS teams as outlined in A Vision for Change did not stipulate dieticians as part of the membership. CAMHS CHO3 has identified the significant gap in the assessment and treatment of young people with eating disorders posed by the lack the key contribution to be made by dieticians. This resource is not provided through Primary Care Services to this cohort of young people. Dieticians have also very relevant and valuable expertise to offer to children attending CAMHS for other mental health issues for example children and young people with food and nutrition needs associated with other mental health issues including side effects of certain medications.

In recognition of this significant deficit in the services available to young people attending CAMHS particularly those with an eating disorders approval has just been granted to CAMHS CHO3 to recruit two dieticians for the service as part of the further development of the

service in the HSE National Service Plan 2021. This resource is very welcome and will serve CAMHS CHO3 as a whole including Clare CAMHS.

It is anticipated this service development will greatly improve the service experience and outcome for our service users, particularly those living with an eating disorder, not only in Clare but across the CAMHS CHO3.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Niamh Wallace', is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, there is a small blue mark that looks like a stylized 'P' or 'W'.

**Niamh Wallace
Head of Service,
Mid West Mental Health Services**