



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

26th November 2021

PQ Number: 54638/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report on the 4,905 children who were referred to CAMHS in 2020 but deemed inappropriate by the number in each CHO area - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 HSE does not routinely collect data on the specific reasons for each individual case as to why a CAMHS referral is deemed inappropriate. Each referral to CAMHS is screened by members of a CAMHS Multi-Disciplinary Team to determine whether or not the referral is appropriate for CAMHS or if it is more suitable for another service, based on the primary clinical presentation of the child or adolescent.

The CAMHS Operational Guidelines clearly outline the referral pathways to CAMHS, the type of referrals accepted for treatment and the type of referrals not suitable for CAMHS services. Referrals which have been deemed inappropriate for CAMHS (which is a specialist secondary care service) are those who do not meet the referral criteria as specified in the CAMHS Guidelines and for example, may have been deemed more appropriate to another service, for example, Primary Care or Intellectual Disability services. Such referrals would have been signposted by CAMHS to these services at the 'referral declined' stage and are sent back to the original referrer.

Further information on the inclusion and exclusion referral criteria for children and adolescents who are referred to the service can be found at the following link.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>

A more detailed response is provided in response to your Parliamentary Question 54637/21.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services