

**17th December 2021**

Deputy Steven Matthews T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [steven.matthews@oireachtas.ie](mailto:steven.matthews@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 57852/21– National Gender Services, St Columcilles’s Hospital**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the National Gender Service multidisciplinary team; when it will become operational; and the approximate timeframe expected to get an appointment for a 16 year old based in County Wicklow, first referred to a similar service in the United Kingdom in August 2020 by CAMHS.”**

Dear Deputy Matthews,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the position of the National Gender Service multidisciplinary team, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the National Gender Service multidisciplinary team has been in operation since 2019.

The National Gender Service is currently only funded to see adults. The National Gender Service can only see people once they reach 18 years of age. However, they can place people on the waiting list from the age of 17 and so can accept a referral from the age of 17.

A separate service for younger people based in CHI Crumlin was working independently of the National Gender Service.

There are currently over 800 people on the waiting list to be seen in the National Gender Service, and because of the ongoing increase in demand for the service, this number is increasing. The current waiting time for services at the National Gender Service is approximately two and a half years. Without additional resources this waiting time will continue to increase as the number of referrals received per year continues to exceed capacity.



To address this deficit in capacity, the National Gender Service has submitted a number of business cases to the HSE for additional staff in order to bring down the waiting time. We have also spoken with the HSE Mental Health Division about submitting a business case for a Child and Adolescent Multidisciplinary Team so that the National Gender Service can see people of all ages. The view is that such a lifecourse service would be of significant benefit as it would make provision of support and care for transgender youth seamless and would remove the duplication of assessment and waiting lists that currently exists for young gender non-conforming people in Ireland.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery