



13th December 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 58715/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons currently on waiting lists for counselling in the State by county; and the lengths of time they have spent on the waiting lists.

- Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 58715/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The spread of COVID-19 is posing significant challenges for many service areas, including all Therapy Services. In light of these unprecedented challenges together with the Government's guidance on social distancing and on 'Cocooning' for those aged over 70, the HSE has had to reassess its operation of Community Therapy Services nationally, to ensure that the assessed needs of those clients with the highest priority are met.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Psychology services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 41,800 patients seen by HSE Primary Care Psychology Services.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Psychology as of October 2021, which is the latest available data at this time. The psychology waiting list in Primary Care includes those waiting for counselling appointments in Primary Care. Please note where an individual LHO was unable to return the waiting list data for the month in question that is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

Appendix 1 - Psychology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment October 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations