



21st October 2021

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 48833/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting on a counselling appointment in primary care; the average waiting time in each CHO area from 2019 to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 48834/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults waiting on a counselling appointment in primary care; the average waiting time in each CHO area from 2019 to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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 Community Psychology Services.

Please note that we do not report the average current wait times for Psychology services. However, we do report the total numbers waiting at the end of each month. The psychology waiting list in Primary Care includes those waiting for counselling appointments in Primary Care. Where an individual CHO was unable to return the waiting list data for the month in question that is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

Please see the below appendices, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Psychology as of August 2021, which is the latest available data at this time. In total, there were 983 adults waiting at August 2021.

Appendix 1 - Psychology - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment August 2021

Appendix 2 - Psychology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment August 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations