



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,  
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Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

**PQ Number: 47231/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adolescents currently accessing CAMHS; the number of children currently on the waiting list for initial assessment by CAMHS; the length of time they have been waiting for an initial assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter - David Cullinane**

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

Nationally, there were 2,384 children on the waiting list for community mental health services in August 2021. There were 170 children waiting longer than 12 months in August. Both CHO1 and CHO2, have no children waiting longer than 12 months to be seen. CHO3 have 78, CHO4 (42), CHO5 (04), CHO6 (no data), CHO7 (10), CHO8 (35) and CHO9 (01) children waiting longer than 12 months to be seen by CAMHS.

As of the end of August 2021, 75.7% of referrals accepted by child and adolescent community teams were offered an appointment within 12 weeks against a target of 78%. However, 94.9% of new or re-referred cases were seen within 12 months by community CAMHS services YTD August 2021. Nationally, 93.7% of urgent referrals to CAMHS were responded to within three working days, above the 90% target.

The cyber-attack has impacted on the ability to report for the second half of May, for the months of June and July and to a lesser extent August as systems have come back online post cyber-attack. As a result the data above is representative of 77.8% of data available from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Accordingly, this data should be read in light of the very significant challenges detailed above.

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".

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