



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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16TH December, 2022

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 61029/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the action that is being taken to reduce waiting lists for psychology services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Jim O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation (PQ 61029/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Primary Care Operations and the Department of Health provided additional funding to decrease the numbers of children and young people waiting over 12 months to access psychology services in 2021. In March 2021, there were 5,296 children or young people waiting to access primary care psychology services. As a result of this funding, there was an overall reduction of 865 (16%) for those waiting over 12 months by year end (2021). This initiative is continuing for 2022 and to date (Jan 2022- November), 3,261 children or young people, who have been waiting for over one year, have either been transferred to treatment or have been removed from the waiting list as part of a validation exercise.

Since the commencement of these additional measures, significant progress has been made to ensure the children and younger people who have been waiting the longest are seen.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations