

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 62702/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE staff in each of the Cork CAMHS teams; and the number by role that is considered a full cohort in tabular form.”**

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

CAMHS services are designed for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health disorders. There are a total of eight sector based community mental health teams in Cork and two sector based teams in Kerry. The CAMHS community based teams are supported by Eist Linn, Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit.

As you may be aware, there are long-standing workforce challenges and although additional investment has been approved for some community services, the ability to recruit and retain the community workforce is an on-going significant issue. The HSE continues to invest in and enhance our services, while at the same time fully utilising opportunities offered by digital health technologies to mitigate recruitment challenges and modernise the delivery of mental health care. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) staffing and recruitment is impacted by the current shortage of trained Mental Health staff nationally - a trend which is not unique to Ireland. The availability of skilled staff is a significant issue in mental health services across all disciplines where demand outstrips supply and our workforce (particularly younger staff) are availing of employment opportunities outside of Ireland. Ongoing efforts locally, nationally and internationally, are continuing in order to ensure that all available avenues are explored to provide a staffing supply for Mental Health services, including CAMHS services. The HSE has been taking concrete steps to address these issues in workforce planning as well as training and recruitment enhancements. Every effort is being made to address these staffing challenges including but not limited to the use of agencies, overseas recruitment and telemedicine.

Vision for Change recommends staffing levels of two (2) child and adolescent CMHTs for each sector of 100,000 population with individual teams should comprising of 1 consultant psychiatrist, 1 doctor in training, 2 psychiatric nurses, 2 clinical psychologists, 2 social workers, 1 occupational therapist, 1 speech and language therapist, 1 child care worker, 2 administrative staff.

Currently, there is no allocated WTE ceiling per team/discipline. At all times Mental Health Services strives to ensure that the staff profile and skill mix appropriately meets the needs of all service users and to optimise

and maximise the number of staff available to meet critical clinical need. I have outlined hereunder current WTE per team as of October 2022

Team	Consultant	Registrar	SHO	Senior Registrar	Psychologist	OT	Nurse	Social Worker	Child/Social Care Worker	SALT	Admin	Other	Other Therapist
Cork North Central	1	1	0	0	1.8	0.6	0.8	1.6	0.6	1	2	0	0
Kerry Team 1	1.25	1.5	1	1	2	1	0.8	2	1	1.6	2	1	0
Kerry Team 2	0.9	2	0	0	1	2	1.8	1	0.8	1.5	2.8	0.92	0
North Cork	0.6	1.8	0	0	4	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	0
North Lee East	1	1	0	0	1.5	1	1	0.8	1	0.6	2	0.4	0
North Lee West	1	1	1	1	1	0.6	1	0.9	0.6	0.8	2	0.4	0
West Cork	1	1	0	0	2.6	1	2	2	0	1.5	1	0	0
South Lee 1	1	1	1	1	1.5	1	1.6	2	0	0	1	0	0
South Lee 2	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1.4	0.8	2	1.6	0	0
South Lee 3	1	1	0	0	1.8	1	1	1.6	0	1	2	0	0

Please note that the information included in the table does not include posts (or partial posts) that are currently vacant or otherwise unfilled. This information is dynamic in nature and constantly changing and I am unable to provide this at this time.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



**Mr. Hugh Scully**  
**A/General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**