



28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Mr. Dessie Ellis TD.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Head of Service Mental Health Community  
Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County,  
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords  
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By email: [dessie.ellis@oir.ie](mailto:dessie.ellis@oir.ie)

**PQ Ref 38900/22** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychiatric consultants in CH09 working out of the Ballymun Health Centre; the number of hours and days worked; the number of cases waiting for assessment; the average wait times for such assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. **Dessie Ellis TD**

Dear Deputy Ellis,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

A Vision for Change, Mental Health Policy (2006) recommends two Consultant Psychiatrists per 100,000 population. Regrettably due to ongoing nationwide recruitment challenges, there is currently one Consultant Psychiatrist on the Ballymun Community Mental Health Team (CMHT). However, following a successful recruitment campaign, a second consultant is due to start with the Team on 1st September 2022 and, following that, a third consultant is due to take up post. There are also three non-consultant hospital doctors and one senior registrar on the team. Ballymun CMHT is an extremely busy sector due to the large catchment area, with 217 referrals received by the team in the first six months of 2022.

The Ballymun clinic operates 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. At present there are 125 patients on the waiting list for an appointment. The average waiting time for a routine appointment is seven months however the team can offer urgent appointments in exceptional cases. .

In the interim, if individuals require additional support while awaiting their appointment, they can access resources online through [www.yourmentalhealth.ie](http://www.yourmentalhealth.ie) or visit <https://www2.hse.ie/services/mental-health-supports-and-services/mental-health-supports-and-services.html> for a list of different types of support available for people with mental health difficulties.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Danny Connellan  
Interim Head of Service Mental Health  
Dublin North City and County