



Ceannasáí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram  
Príomhúil,  
Chabháin, Dhún na nGall, Liatroim,  
Mhúineacháin, Shiligh,  
Campas Naomh Damhnait,  
Muineachain

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2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

Ms Marian Harkin T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ ref 34017/22: To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for access to psychology services and CAMHS in County Sligo; and the plans that are in place to address these waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Harkin,

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 Chief Officer, CHO 1 for response. I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the position.

The Primary Care Psychology Service is seeing a significant increase in referrals. This is due to:

1. Increased demand post Covid when service delivery was curtailed.
2. A large increase in children presenting with autistic spectrum. These children in the past would have received a service from the Early Intervention team but are now being referred to Primary Care Psychology.
3. Realignment of our catchment area has resulted in staff resources being allocated to cover an inherited waiting list from South Donegal of 20-25 referrals.
4. A number of senior staff have retired recently and are in the process of being replaced.
5. Because CAMHS series and Adult Mental Health Services have a deficit of Psychologists at present clients who previously would have received a service in those services are now being referred to Primary Care. There are currently just one of the three posts filled – recruitment to unfilled posts is ongoing but has been challenging.

Sligo Leitrim Primary Care Psychology waiting lists are as follows:

- 123 children on waitlist
- Longest time of referral is 105 weeks for children on wait list.
- Average wait time from referral to be seen is 12-18 months.
- Number of children waiting less than a year is = 84.
- Number of children waiting longer than a year = 39
  
- Number of Adults waiting = 29
- Longest waiting time for Adult = 87 weeks
- Number of adults waiting less than a year = 26
- Number of adults waiting more than a year = 3



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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Mandy Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mandy Doyle  
Head of Service Primary Care CHO1

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil  
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

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Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal.