

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Deputy Pa Daly,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 12595/22**

***“To ask the Minister for Health the number of CAMHS resources in place in County Kerry compared to the recommended CAMHS resources per 12,500 population of children aged under 18 years as identified in A Vision for Change and A National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland in each of the years 2014 to 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”***

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

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.

A Vision for change (AVFC) provides the following recommendations for human resource / manpower in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across Ireland. Two child and adolescent CMHTs should be established for each sector of 100,000 populations. Individual teams and should comprise the following:

- one consultant psychiatrist
- one doctor in training
- two psychiatric nurses
- two clinical psychologists
- two social workers
- one occupational therapist
- one speech and language therapist
- one child care worker
- two administrative staff.

While AVFC recommends one team per 50,000 total population, it is more appropriate to relate this to the number of the population aged under 18 years. Thus, it is now agreed that there should be one team per 12,500 children aged under 18 years.


With regards to your query, please see below table which outlines the actual whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing working across the two sector team in Kerry from 2014-2020. Of note, the data captured reflects the actual staffing working with each of these teams and therefore does not include staff WTE that were on maternity leave or other extended leave at the time.

Year	Population 0-18	Actual WTE (including admin)	VFC Recommendation (based on population)	WTE Gap
2014	36,528 *2011 Census	13.5	40	26.5
2015	36,528 *2011 Census	14.2	40	25.8
2016	34,527 *2016 Census	16.6	35.9	19.3
2017	34,527 *2016 Census	14.9	35.9	21
2018	34,527 *2016 Census	15.26	35.9	20.64
2019	34,527 *2016 Census	21	35.9	14.9
2020	34,527 *2016 Census	18.3	35.9	17.6

It is also important to note that CAMHS in common with all CAMHS services nationally has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining the services of CAMHS staff in recent years. Management in Kerry Mental Health Services have been taking every measure to acquire the necessary resources, clinical and otherwise to ensure a quality service for the children of Kerry going forward.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



---

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