



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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2nd June 2022

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 27471/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who are waiting on a counselling appointment in primary care; the average waiting time in each CHO area from 2019 to date in 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 27471/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Psychology services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 45,120 patients seen by HSE Primary Care Psychology Services.

The spread of Covid-19 has posed significant challenges for many service areas, including all Therapy Services. In light of these unprecedented challenges together with the Government's guidance on social distancing and on 'Cocooning' for those aged over 70, the HSE has had to reassess its operation of Community Therapy Services nationally, to ensure that the assessed needs of those clients with the highest priority are met.

Please find the attached appendices, which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for children in Primary Care Counselling for December 2019, December 2020, and December 2021 and as of April 2022, which is the latest available data at this time. Please note where an individual LHO was unable to return the waiting list data for the month in question that is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

Appendix 1 – Psychology – Number of 0-17 years & 11 months Patients waiting for treatment April 2022

Appendix 2 – Psychology – Number of 0 – 17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment December 2021

Appendix 3 – Psychology – Number of Patients aged under 18 years old waiting for treatment December 2020

Appendix 4 – Psychology – Number of Patients aged 0 to 17 years old waiting for treatment December 2019

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations