

14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 27907/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the waiting list in Cork CAMHS teams; the number waiting longer than 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months respectively.”**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) services are designed for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health needs. All referrals received to CAMHS services are triaged as per CAMHS Operational Guideline 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Nov 2019. The referral is then either accepted or rejected at that point. There are two types of referral; an urgent referral and a routine referral. Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high risk presentations are seen as soon as possible and this is often within 24 to 48 hours. This may impact on wait times for presentations that are triaged, to be less severe. Please see table below of each CAMHS sector waiting list breakdown in April 2022 as requested

	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-18 Months	18-24 Months
<b>South Lee 1</b>	25	28	28	15	10	2
<b>South Lee 2</b>	10	10	8	6	1	0
<b>South Lee 3</b>	35	47	37	28	21	3
<b>West Cork</b>	22	12	1	2	9	0
<b>North Lee North</b>	10	18	12	2	5	0
<b>North Lee West</b>	15	8	9	2	17	0
<b>North Lee East</b>	9	12	8	1	0	0
<b>North Cork</b>	29	30	28	17	46	17

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. These workforce challenges have grown over the last 2 years as a result of competing priorities to deliver essential programmes of work including

vaccination services, test and trace services, the implementation of key policies as well as on-going operational challenges of winter, the COVID response and the cyber-attack. It is acknowledged that the number of people on waiting lists for treatment or assessment exceeds Sláinte Care waiting time targets. It is also important to note that Cork CAMHS in common with all CAMHS services nationally has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining the services of CAMHS doctors in recent years. Management in Cork 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 Cork going forward.

Furthermore, I wish to assure you that all efforts continue to be made locally to address and reduce waiting list in CAMHS Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and we are committed to continuing these efforts to ensure that better access to a safe and effective service is delivered.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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**Mr Kevin Morrison**  
**A/Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**