



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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Deputy Catherine Connolly,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

5th October 2022

**PQ Number: 48859/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the national audit of CAMHS, following the Maskey report into south Kerry CAMHS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly**

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Dear Deputy Connolly,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Report on the Look-Back Review into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in South Kerry, also referred to as the 'Maskey Report', was published on the 26th January, 2022. Following this the HSE stood up a National Oversight Group to oversee, monitor and report on the implementation of the Maskey Report. The National Oversight Group is jointly chaired by the Chief Operations Officer and Chief Clinical Officer and provides regular progress reports to the HSE Board's Safety and Quality Committee.

The Maskey Report contains 35 recommendations covering a broad range of areas such as re-establishing trust in CAMHS, governance of the service, delivery of clinical services, improved clinical practice and the use of information and communication technology to support the delivery of services. In order to provide assurance to those who use CAMHS, the HSE's National Oversight Group commissioned a number of national audits in relation to prescribing practice, compliance with the HSE CAMHS Operational Guidelines and research on service user and key stakeholders experiences of CAMHS.

(i) Audit on CAMHS Prescribing Practice: Independently chaired by Dr Collette Halpin, an expert team has been established to conduct an audit of prescribing practice in CAMHS. Membership of the expert group also includes Dr Imelda Whyte, nominated by the College of Psychiatry, and Dr Suzanne McCarthy, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy Practice, UCC. The expert team is administratively supported by the HSEs National Centre for Clinical Audit and Community Operations. A pilot has been completed with four CHO areas and a series of webinars have been conducted. Analysis of the Pilot data has commenced and is near completion. The national audit commenced in all CAMHS teams on the 14th July 2022, with a high



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response rate to date. Full data analysis is now due to commence and the Expert Team expects to report on the findings in Q4 2022.

(ii) An audit of compliance with the CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019) has also been commissioned to include the design of a bespoke audit framework, a gap analysis of adherence to the COG, any regional or other factors impacting same, and conclusions on the requirement for targeted service improvement. A procurement process was undertaken and the successful provider has commenced on the 29th August 2022. This audit will be completed within 6 months of the start date.

(iii) UCC has been engaged as an academic partner to conduct qualitative research into CAMHS experiences. This research will involve a qualitative study of CAMHS experiences in order to determine the lived experience of service users, families and carers, staff, referrers and other key stakeholders interacting with the CAMHS service. The research methodology for this audit strand requires ethical approval and this process is in the final stages of completion. It is expected the research will be completed within six months from confirmation of ethical approval.

Alongside these independent audits a number of internal HSE work streams are being established to take responsibility for the implementation of the outstanding recommendations. The Maskey implementation team is working very closely with the Implementation Group for Sharing the Vision, to ensure that we are adopting a truly systemic approach to changes within CAMHS and are avoiding duplication.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hennessy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

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**Sarah Hennessy**  
**General Manager**  
**Community Operations – Mental Health**