

10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

Deputy Pa Daly  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 46810/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of current CAMHS patients in each of north Kerry awaiting their first occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and psychology appointments for longer than 3, 6, 9, 12,18 months and three years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter..”**

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a 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 breakdown below of children within the North Kerry CAMHS team waiting for Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Psychology appointments as of October 2022 as requested:

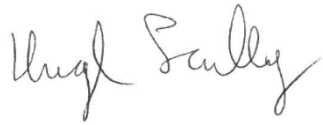
Discipline	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-18 months	18 months – 3 years
Occupational Therapy	3	11	5			34
SALT	15	5				
Psychology	11	1				

It’s important to note that Occupational Therapy posts within North Kerry CAMHS have been vacant since February 2022. Concerted recruitment efforts have been made to fill all OT gaps including working with our agency partners.

With regards to addressing the Occupational Therapy waitlists, I am pleased to advise that North Kerry CAMHS has successfully had a permanent senior OT post recently approved. The candidate is due to commence on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 on a full time basis. The permanent staff grade OT will return from on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. We anticipate the waiting list to decrease in the imminent future once the full OT compliment on the team has increased.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Scully". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

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