

2nd February 2023

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 4149/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of cases that are to be reviewed in the comprehensive lookback review into CAMHS in north Kerry; the reason for the delay in the calling of this review; if there was an overlap between the cases with risk in the Mental Health Commission's interim report; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

Following publication of the Maskey Report, in order to gain assurance about the quality of the CAMHS service being provided in North Kerry, the HSE confirmed a planned sample file audit of 50 files at North Kerry CAMHS would take place. This is a random audit of files and represents approximately 10% of the case load of the North Kerry CAMHS team. The purpose of audit is to establish what, if any variance exists from standard clinical practice in assessment, formulation, diagnosis, treatment planning and delivery including prescribing practice. This audit began in June 2022.

To ensure best practice is being maintained, the files that are subject to the audit were chosen by staff independent of the clinical team involved in the patients care. The files were also checked to ensure they were not previously involved in the original Maskey Report Review and in the event that such files were chosen at random they were replaced with an alternative file, again chosen randomly. This audit is being undertaken by a team of ten Consultants from across the country, with oversight provided from the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Mental Health.

On January 21st 2023, we received a final report from the team of CAMHS consultants who have been carrying out this audit. The audit team have raised potential concerns in 16 of the 50 files they reviewed, including some relating to prescribing practices and some clinical concerns about the professional practice of a clinician. That clinician is not working at this time.

Based on these concerns, we are taking immediate action by beginning the process of setting up a Lookback Review. We are working to identify a clinical lead so that the review has the necessary external, independent oversight.


The review will first look at the files of young people who are currently under the care of North Kerry CAMHS. Information from that review of current files will inform the next phase of the Lookback Review, which will be into previous cases. Our priority is to make sure that the young people involved,

their families and ourselves are reassured that they receive the best possible and most appropriate care. As in previous lookback reviews, if any young person needs further support then we will make sure it is offered and provided as quickly as possible.

As we are at the beginning of the process of setting up a review, we cannot confirm how many young people or files may be involved, however we can say that this will be an extensive review.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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