

Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí, Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens, Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8. D08 W2A8.

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13th January, 2023

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

PQ 63469/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children that are currently waiting for an appointment in primary care psychology; the number that were waiting circa July 2020, average waiting times per CHO in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (63469/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

It is worth noting that COVID-19 has posed significant challenges for many service areas. In light of these unprecedented challenges, together with the Government's guidance on social distancing, this has unfortunately had unavoidable negative impacts on waiting lists. The HSE continues to work hard to address these issues and find solutions to the difficulties resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality psychology care services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 45,120 patients seen by HSE community psychology services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Psychology in each CHO area, as of August 2020, which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Psychology – Number of Children Patients waiting for treatment August, 2020

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

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Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care **National Community Operations**