



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th August 2023

PQ Number: 35311/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of CAMHS teams that are currently using Healthlink for referrals; the policy or its use by services; if other online referral systems are being used or considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to this Parliamentary Question. Contact had to be made with the Office of each Head of Service for Mental Health in the nine CHO areas which required a considerable amount of time and human resource capacity across the system. This information has been provided by each service and any information reported is correct at point in time.

Response from Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CHO 1)

This system is not yet in use however, CDLMS MHS are in the process of setting this up in each area. CAMHS Services are currently at the stage of registering staff and scoping out the introduction of the use of Healthlink as an additional pathway for referrals to CDLMS MHS CAMHS.

Response from Community Healthcare West (CHO 2)

The Head of Service for Community Healthcare West have advised that as part of the national initiative CHO2 are currently working on the implementation of referrals for CAMHS teams to Healthlink by the year end.

Response from Mid-West Community Healthcare (CHO 3)

Currently, Mid-West Community Healthcare does not use Healthlink for referrals in CAMHS. However, MWCH have advised that they acknowledge the value of Healthlink as a way in which referrers can more easily and efficiently access CAMHS on behalf of children and young people who require the service. A



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working group has been established and is working on the development of systems and processes that are required to commence the use of Healthlink in CAMHS. This work will continue in 2023.

Response from Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare (CHO 4)

Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare have advised that Healthlink is currently used by 3 CAMHS teams for referral processes. Other teams in CHO4 use Healthlink for other purposes which include: prescriptions and receiving emails to the team generic account.

Response from South East Community Healthcare (CHO 5)

Currently, CAMHS teams in South East Community Healthcare do not use Healthlink for referrals. However, I have been advised by the Head of Service that her office is working to progress the scaling up of Healthlink programme for all CAMHS teams.

Response from Community Healthcare East (CHO 6)

CAMHS colleagues in Community Healthcare East have confirmed that they are not yet using Healthlink or any other online referral systems currently. There is a plan to commence using Healthlink in Q 4 2023.

Response from Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare (CHO 7)

Please be advised Healthlink is set up for bloods for CAMHS teams in CHO7, no referrals currently being accepted by Healthlink. Most referrals received by post within CHO7 with occasional referrals received via generic email addresses which is set up in all CHO7 CAMHS teams.

Response from Community Health Organisation Midlands Louth Meath (CHO 8)

Community Health Organisation Midlands Louth Meath have advised of the following:

- CAMHS in Laois and North Louth are currently using Healthlink for referrals.
- South Meath and South Louth are almost ready to use Healthlink for referrals

No other digital referral systems are being used or considered at this time.

Response from Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO 9)

Currently, CHO 9 are not using Healthlink for referrals. CAMHS receives referral via General Practitioner and from Hospital Emergency Departments.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written over a horizontal line.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services