



25th July 2023

Deputy Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 34794/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting list for CAMHS services in County Cork, by area; the average waiting time; and his plans to address this.”

PQ ref 34795/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of young people on the CAMHS waiting list in Cork city for less than 3, 3-6, 6-9, 9-12, 12-18, 18-24 and for over 24 months, in tabular form.”

PQ ref 35509/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the waiting list for CAHMS in south Lee and north Lee, broken down by 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months.”

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

There has been a recent significant increase in the number of new referrals to CAMHS in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH). In September 2022, CAMHS across Cork and Kerry received 219 new referrals in the month. In May 2023 this figure had increased to 265 new referrals. This has had an impact on the number of children waiting for services. CAMHS waiting list data is reported by waiting time in three month increments up to 18 months. The table below provides the detail of the numbers waiting for all CAMHS teams in Cork at 30th June 2023.

Waiting List Breakdown as of June 2023

CKCH	<= 3Mths	>3<=6 Mths	>6<=9 Mths	>9<=12 Mths	>12<=15 Mths	>15<=18 Mths	>18 Mths	Total
Child and Adolescent Regional Eating Disorder Service	9	9	6	2	3	0	0	29
Cork North Central	17	19	15	5	4	0	0	60



North Cork	38	34	31	31	29	17	44	224
North Lee East	28	21	4	6	5	3	2	69
North Lee West	17	16	3	3	6	3	1	49
South Lee / West Cork	19	13	3	3	4	1	0	43
South Lee 1	18	11	11	13	16	14	39	122
South Lee 2	22	20	8	10	0	0	0	60
South Lee 3	30	12	16	13	26	21	64	182
Total	198	155	97	86	93	59	150	838

The HSE is committed to improving access to all of its services. In this regard CAMHS teams in Cork & Kerry are taking a multifaceted approach to improving access to their services. An ADHD waitlist initiative has been approved for funding and once operational it is anticipated that the ADHD team will remove 120 children from the waiting list over six months. As the numbers waiting to access CAMHS in North Cork are particularly high, innovative telemedicine clinics are being developed for this area. Furthermore, additional consultant led clinics are provided at weekends to support children and young people in North Cork to access assessment and supports.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Julie O' Neill
Interim Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare