



Mr Denis Naughten TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**PQ 29109/23** – *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting a psychology appointment in CHO9; the breakdown of the time they have been on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter”*  
– **Denis Naughten TD**

Dear Deputy Naughten

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.

There are 2,455 children waiting for a Primary Care Psychology appointment in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC). Below is a breakdown of the length of time they have been waiting:

Child Wait List	0-12wks	12-26wks	26-39wks	39-52wks	52wks+	Total	Longest waiter
Total	572	392	346	330	815	2,455	4.1 years

The demand for Primary Care Psychology services in CHO DNCC has grown 40% since 2019, as a result of increasing need at community level and changes to the threshold to access supports in secondary care and specialised paediatric services.

We have streamlined our Primary Care Psychology services over the past years as well as moving to offering hybrid attendance models to improve accessibility to core services. A service improvement initiative has been established including staff recruitment and retention initiatives aimed at improving access to services for children waiting longer than 52 weeks. This has contributed to 1,363 children being moved off the waiting list in 2022. It is estimated 1,000 additional children will be seen in 2023.

Psychology Advice Clinics providing immediate support to children and families waiting for the service have been established. There are nine Psychology Advice Clinics each fortnight across CHO DNCC. Low intensity interventions, such as parent information workshops are also offered to support children waiting for individual appointments or with non-complex needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Tom O'Brien**  
Head of Service Primary Care