



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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Deputy Michael Moynihan.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

19th May 2023

**PQ Number: 24937/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in each Local Health Office area waiting for a child and adolescent mental health services appointment as of 1 May 2023 or the latest date available; the numbers waiting 0 to 12 weeks; the numbers waiting 12 to 26 weeks; the numbers waiting 26 to 52 weeks; and the numbers waiting more than 52 weeks. -Michael Moynihan**

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Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

CAMHS provide specialist mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of multi-disciplinary mental health teams.

CAMHS referral teams meet on a weekly basis to review all referrals and to assess the risk to the young person. There are two types of referral to CAMHS; an urgent referral and a routine referral. Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high risk presentations are seen as soon as possible; this is often within 24 to 48 hours. Severity of presenting symptoms affect waiting times - where waiting times for those with high risk presentations are shorter. This in turn may impact on wait times for cases that are considered, by a clinician, to be less severe.

Waiting lists vary across Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) areas. While some areas have relatively short waiting lists, regrettably waiting times are longer in other CHO's. Factors such as availability of specialist CAMHS clinicians, current vacancies and difficulties in recruiting in an international context can impact on wait times in various areas. CAMHS waiting lists are also impacted by capacities in other parts of the system - where young people may not receive early intervention and thus their needs escalate necessitating referrals to specialist CAMHS.

The waiting List data for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as of May 2023 is not yet available.



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The table below provides the latest available information on the number of children and young people waiting to be seen by CAMHS as at end of **March 2023**.

Please be advised that this data is preliminary and subject to change and amendment pending ongoing review and validation. Age range is not captured.

	Total	<= 12 weeks No.	> 12 <= 26 weeks No.	>26 <=39 weeks No.	>39 <=52 Weeks No.	>52 Weeks No.
<b>National Total</b>	4,490	1,839	896	566	437	752
CHO 1	483	238	90	75	46	34
CHO 2	312	143	51	39	22	57
CHO 3	336	95	65	30	37	109
CHO 4	882	172	135	100	134	341
CHO 5	264	83	59	48	36	38
CHO 6	766	429	156	87	49	45
CHO 7	451	260	97	39	20	35
CHO 8	745	348	145	84	75	93
CHO 9	251	71	98	64	18	0

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**