

18th September, 2023

Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 37658/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health - to respond to the needs of young people who are at risk of “ageing out” of eligibility for assessment or intervention by the time that they are due to be seen by a psychologist.”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

Primary Care Child, Adolescent and Family Psychology Services teams in Cork and Kerry monitor waiting lists to identify those young people who are at risk of aging out. The teams have to date always prioritised those children on the waitlist who would turn 18 in the current service year; this would mean they would be seen before they age out of the service. However, with the significant increase in numbers waitlisted due to Progressing Disability and the National Access Policy, together with ongoing recruitment difficulties, this has become a significant challenge.

Clients at risk of aging out continue to be prioritised and Primary Care level brief intervention is offered prior to 18 years. Where a young person has aged out, the service seeks to offer brief Primary Care level intervention to the adult client prior to discharge. Clients are sign-posted to suitable adult services e.g. CIPC (Counselling in Primary Care), Jigsaw, Adult Mental Health Services as required for further review/intervention.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



---

**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**